

A  
COUNTER-APOLOGY:  
OR, GENUINE  
CONFESSION.

Being a CAUTION to the  
FAIR SEX in general.

Containing the  
Secret History, Amours, and Intrigues,  
of M— P—, a famous BRITISH Cour-  
tezan; who underwent various Scenes of  
Life, and Changes of Fortune, both at Home  
and Abroad.

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Written by herself, and published at her Desire.

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N U M B E R I.

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*Trust not a Man, we are by Nature false;  
Dissembling, subtle, cruel, and inconstant:  
When a Man talks of Love, with Caution trust him;  
But if he swears, he'll certainly deceive you.*

CHAMONT in the ORPHAN.

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L O N D O N :

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COUNTRESS-APOLLO;  
OR, GEMINAE  
CONFESSION.

Being a CAUTION to the  
FAIR SEX in general.

Containing the  
Secret History, Anecdotes, and Intrigues  
of M<sup>rs</sup> P<sup>r</sup>, a famous British Court  
woman; who underwent various Scenes of  
Life, and Change of Fortune, both in Home  
and Abroad.

Written by herself, and published at her Desire.

NUMBER I.

That not a Man, nor one of his  
Effeminate Sons, could endure this  
Woman's Misery of Fate, or  
the History will easily be known.  
Caution to the Gentleman.







THE SECRET  
HISTORY  
OF  
*M—— P——,*  
A

Famous BRITISH Courtezan.

HE world having already known so much of my public history, will no doubt expect that I should now publish, for the sake of the curious, such of my transactions and amours as have not hitherto fallen under their cognizance. This emboldens me to put my hand to the work, without so much as an apology or a preface. But before I proceed, I beg leave to premise, that my only design of publishing a work of this nature, is to point out, for the benefit of my own sex, the various dangers and precipices to which we are naturally exposed and betrayed by deluding man, who, forgetting that he is born of a woman, treats us with the greatest inhumanity and ingratitude, as oft as we condescend to comply with his brutal appetites and desires: And to shew, both by precept and example, how to retort the cheat upon him, and catch him in the traps and snares he industriously lays out for us—against which we can never sufficiently guard without dear-bought experience, or a previous warning from those who have been thus insnared.

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HERE

HERE Christianity, which bids us *bleſs them that curſe us, and pray for our perſecutors*, ſtands in my way. But this is a virtue too nice for fleſh and blood, which are actuated by divers paſſions, particularly *revenge*, to attain : And tho' forgivenefs be daily preached up, as the nobleſt quality of a great ſoul, I never could perſuade myſelf of the reaſonableneſs of it. Our Maker, in framing us, as well as all other living creatures, implanted in us the neceſſary principles of ſelf-preservation ; and tho' we cannot at all times guard againſt what may hurt us, reaſon tells us, that we have a right to retaliate the injury done us upon the offender, as the only means, in my opinion, to deter him from practiſing upon us again ; whereas, if we allow him to paſs with impunity, he will never ceaſe doing us harm. And where, pray, is our reward ? not upon earth, I am ſure. And it is hard to ſay, whether our ſuffering in this manner will bring us one ſtep nearer heaven. All I ſhall ſay of this laudable virtue of forgivenefs, is, that whoever is endowed with it, muſt needs have a treacherous memory, conſequently liable to forget favours as well as injuries : And this, we know, borders too near upon ingratitude, which, we are told, *is worſe than the ſin of witchcraft*. This, indeed, is not the only ſpecious virtue that ſtoiciſm and prieſtcraft have introduced into the world, to ſerve private ends ; and to give ſuch chimeras implicit faith, would be to render ourſelves the moſt abject ſlaves of the creation, and ſet us, as often as we tranſgreſs them, upon the rack of *conſcience*, a term as fictitious and frivolous as the reſt of their imaginary virtues ; tho' the *Clergy*, for reaſons beſt known to themſelves, have made it a bug-bear and gnawing-worm to too many of the credulous world, who, without conſulting in the leaſt their own reaſon, receive for goſpel every article alledged by ſome of theſe pretended miſſionaries of Heaven ; who make it their buſineſs to hoodwink the Laity, whom they teach, by wrong principles and prevailing cuſtom, to admire and eſteem many things as virtues, which are not really ſuch. And pray, what is more ridiculous and unbecoming a rational creature, than to give ſervile obedience to the precepts and commands of thoſe, whoſe intereſt it is to keep us in a baſe ſubjection ? And who, notwithſtanding their grimace

mace and public exhortation to the contrary, use, in private, very cogent and persuasive arguments, to force us to a total unbelief of their most sacred tenets, as often as they find their account in it. Is there any thing more common than to hear the p—n of the parish denounce h—ll and d——n to such as use freedom with a woman without his permission? tho' he cannot quote one single verse in either the New or Old Testament to back his assertions. There is not a sabbath passes, but he devoutly repeats, *Thou shalt not commit adultery; Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, &c.* yet he is no sooner out of his *Sanctum Sanctorum*, than he walks with a demure and self-denied countenance to the neighbour's house, whose wife, daughter, or maid, pleases him best; and, under the specious pretext of confession, or pious exhortation, retires with the good man's beloved consort, and charitably eases the husband of the duty which lies too heavy upon his shoulders: Nay, if he be a man of superlative abilities, he will also answer the spiritual longings of the languishing daughter; yea, the handmaid shall not, perhaps, be turned away without his blessing. Yet this hypocrite, as if he was of the cabinet-council of Heaven, pretends to explain to us the mysteries of the will and decrees of the Almighty, and earnestly enjoins us to walk accordingly, tho' he acts quite the reverse. But should any one tell him, that he says more than he practises, he would probably answer, *Do as I bid you, but not as I do*; that is to say, Be sober, chaste, patient, and forgiving, that he may with impunity perpetrate the contrary Vices. Not that I would be understood to decry all those of the robe; far be it from me; because there are, without doubt, a great many moral good men among them. My purpose is to shew my fair readers, that a long gown and band are not at all times the true characteristics of a truly virtuous man; and that there is nothing more abused or misapplied than Religion, tho' the most sacred institution among men. 'Tis the gown, my friends, that covers the most inordinate and criminal passions, and gives a seeming sanction to the most illicit actions. Is there a wrong step taken by the C——t, to the prejudice of the public, to which our ghostly fathers do not assent? and were they not always used as proper



instruments to behead and dethrone kings, overturn states, and effect wicked plots? We ought not therefore implicitly to believe every thing that is conveyed to us under the cloak of religion, as the Almighty has endowed us with understanding and reason, by which he commands us to *try or prove all things, whether they be of God or of man.*

My readers will readily ask, why I run out thus far in exclaiming against the Clergy in particular. I answer, because I always found by experience (than which nothing is more convincing), that some of them are the most profligate and abandoned of all mankind, void of the fear of God, as they know him to be merciful, and under no apprehension from men, having religion for their cloak and protection. But whether this imputation be false or true, I leave the candid reader to judge by the following genuine account.

To pass then over in silence my birth and education, together with the follies of my youth or minority, as facts not very material for my present purpose, I'll begin my narration with the amours and intrigues of a reverend Divine, whose name, as he is now in an eminent station within the reach of the *Penny Post*, I will conceal, and call *Spintext*.

In the fifteenth year of my age, after my first undoer, as it is evidently known, ungenerously abandoned me to my own shifts, and the bounty of such as could put up with a second-hand, or rather a cast-off mistress, I was obliged to change my lodgings, which I could no longer pay for, and remove to a part of the town where I thought my disgrace, nor my face, were not as yet known: but as the report of my disaster had been spread through all the country, particularly among those who were acquainted with my family, I was under an absolute necessity of changing my name, as well as the place of my abode, and call myself *Constantia*. Accordingly, having disposed of the little furniture I had remaining (for my hard circumstances obliged me to pawn the best part of it for my maintenance), with which I purchased cloaths, and other necessaries, suitable to the capacity in which I was going to act, I launched out into the world, in the character of a young girl sent from a remote country-

try-village, to rub off, by intercourse with the beau monde, the shamefacedness and clownish carriage which are the ordinary concomitants of a country education. I had not been long in this corner of the town, when my beauty, of which, vanity apart, I had a tolerable share, drew upon me the eyes of a crowd of admirers, and, among the rest those of the reverend Mr. *Spintext*, curate of the parish in which I lived, and otherwise a gentleman in pretty good circumstances. This parson was an intimate friend of Mr. *Brissoy* my landlord, who paid him as much respect and deference as ever the *French* did to St. Dennis: And, to do him justice, his deportment and public conversation commanded no less; but otherwise a man of very depraved and corrupt morals, as you shall soon hear.

BEING, as I told you, a favourite of my landlord, and, I believe, the tutelar saint of his wife, he had frequent opportunities not only of seeing, but also of conversing with me. So finding me a young pretty girl of no experience, and lately come from the country, as he supposed, he thought he could soon bring me to reason. Accordingly, he repeated his visits, with which Mrs. *Brissoy* was not in the least displeased, as she often enjoyed the fruit which my presence ripened, and which he could not hitherto confer upon me. One day, as *Brissoy* and his wife were visiting some of their neighbours, his reverence came in, and, without speaking one word, caught me by the neck, and kissed me. I pretended to be in the greatest confusion imaginable; and told him, that that was a piece of freedom very unbecoming one of his profession, and inconsistent with my reputation to receive from any person. ‘ My dear (says he) St. *Paul* commands us to greet one another with a holy kiss: And who is, I pray you, more intitled to do so than the retailers of the word? Besides, who can view thy angelic face, and not wish to fly into your arms? the least touch of which would make the frozen blood of seventy thrill through all the vital parts, like the incessant current of twenty-five! Ah! these heavenly excrescences (slipping his hand into my bosom) just rising in their dawn, and inviting to be pressed! What a lovely hand, white and smooth as alabaster!

What

‘What symmetry observed through your whole frame !  
 ‘But oh! these delicious lips, on whose ambrosial  
 ‘juice I could for ever feed——’ You are too free  
 with your kisses, and too lavish of your panegyrics, Sir,  
 replied I (faintly struggling), which, I think, I am no  
 more intitled to receive, than it is lawful for you to be-  
 stow. That is your mistake, my dear, says he ; for the  
 more we extol the works of the Almighty, the more we  
 are in our duty : And who can find, among the works  
 of creation, a subject which can give a clearer idea of  
 the omnipotence of G—d than your exquisite person ?  
 Happy is the man, continued he (grasping my waist),  
 who shall have this little world, to explore the beauties  
 thereof ; and for whom this treasure is destined by the  
 unalterable decree of heaven !

HE was just stealing his hand up under my petty-  
 coats, when a rap at the door, put a stop, for that time,  
 to his extasy, and rapturous encomiums. This proved  
 to be Mrs. *Brissoy*, who finding me and the person *tête à*  
*tête*, and very well knowing his natural parts, began to  
 suspect his reverence of double-dealing ; and from that  
 period of time observed narrowly the minutest glance  
 of our eyes. Mr. *Spintext*, at length, growing impa-  
 tient, and tired with the repeated reproofs of Mrs.  
*Brissoy*, who never ceased to upbraid him with a growing  
 indifference, and coolness in his caresses, which she  
 could impute to nothing else but the regard he had for  
 me, began to slip anonymous letters and billets into my  
 hand, as often as he had an opportunity so to do, with-  
 out being observed. One of which runs thus, and will  
 serve for a specimen of the rest.

THanks to my indulgent stars, which, tho’ I am de-  
 prived at present of conversing freely with you, has  
 not debarred me from pen, ink, and paper, whereby I  
 am enabled to communicate, in some measure, the sin-  
 cere sentiments of my mind, and disclose the various  
 emotions which incessantly struggle within my breast,  
 and which my eyes but too plainly confess to escape your  
 penetration. You cannot, dear Miss, be so indiscriminating  
 as not to perceive, that you, and you alone, are the  
 cause of all my sufferings, which if you did but regard  
 with



with an eye of pity, would become a pleasure rather than a pain—But how can I expect the happiness of being thus pitied by you, since I plainly perceive, that instead of embracing every opportunity, which, indeed, seldom offer, of being together in private, you shun me as you would your evil genius, were it possible for you to have such, when I, alas! am obliged to hug my chains. bless and adore her who imposed them upon me. Consider, dear angel, my distress, with its fatal consequences, if not seasonably removed, by the condescension of the object which produces it; and imitate the powers above, whom you so much resemble, by succouring the miserable, and pitying the sufferings of one who glories thus to be your slave.

THO' for a long time I made no other return to his epistolary expostulation than by the language of the eyes, at reading of which he had a wonderful knack, he did not despair of success, could he persuade me to remove to one Mr. *Wardin's* house, a friend of his, who, he said, would use me with the greatest civility.

HE continued daily to urge me to remove to this friend's house, with which I at length complied. But the difficulty was, how to bring it about, without disobliging Mrs. *Brissoy*, whom, notwithstanding her jealousy, I always found very discreet and civil; besides, leaving my lodgings in the middle of a term, without any apparent provocation, or reason, would look suspicious, and much more so, should I go to his friend's house, considering the notion Mrs. *Brissoy* entertained already of our familiarity.

MR. *Spintext* had no sooner understood my embarrass, than he gave me to understand, that he would make it his business to remove the obstacle laid in my way, with regard to Mrs. *Brissoy*, provided I would condescend to embrace the first opportunity she should give me of quitting her house. I told him I would. Accordingly, the first interview he had with madam, he artfully took occasion to talk of me, and to depreciate me as much as possible in her eyes; for, said he, I once thought her, meaning me, to be a tolerable good girl; but now I find her to be a prying little cunning gypsy, ready to suspect  
the

the least freedom that passes between you and me. She met me the other day as I was coming out of your room, just at the door, and said, with a sneer, I believe, Sir, Mrs. *Brissoy* benefits much by your holy conversation, and godly admonition. It is the fear, my dear, of being thus discovered by her, continued he, that takes away a great part of the extasy and raptures which commonly attended our caresses; and I am sorry to tell you, that, for the future, I must retrench my visits, in order to maintain my good character, which has not been hitherto in the least suspected.

HALF this insinuation would have been sufficient for Mrs. *Brissoy* to banish the Virgin *Mary* from her house, had she been her lodger; in my situation; for no interest or friendship could balance the consolation she had in Mr. *Spintext*'s charitable visits. She therefore came to me, without loss of time, and said, that she was sorry to acquaint me, that she was obliged to let my room to another young lady, who had been recommended to her care by an intimate friend in the country. At the same time begged, that I should not be offended at such an abrupt and unseasonable warning. Your warning, madam, replied I briskly, with a frown, can never come unseasonably to me, while I have health to go, and look out for other lodgings; and with that flew out of the room, and went immediately, according to the directions given me, to Mr. *Spintext*'s friend, who, forewarned of what was to happen, had a room ready-furnished for my reception, and very well adapted to the parson's design; for it had a back-door that led into a small garden so beset with trees, that his reverence might pass unseen to my apartment as often as he inclined, tho' he seldom or never ventured to come in the day-time.

WHEN Mr. *Spintext* heard that I had removed to Mr. *Wardin*'s, he wrote me the following letter, under cover to my new landlord.

THIS with the greatest pleasure, next to the enjoyment of your dear self, that I heard Mrs. *Brissoy* recount the story of your abrupt departure. I congratulate myself upon being the happy instrument of your separation; as it will be a means to bring us together, the thoughts of  
of

of which make me already forget my late sufferings and anxiety. Consider then what I must needs be, when I shall have the happiness of infolding thy slender waist, and breathing out my soul in a deluge of kisses upon thy balmy lips. Oh! that the sun would hasten his course, and plunge the world in darkness, that I, conducted by the torch of *Venus*, might fly unseen, upon the wings of love, and perch between my angel's arms: Till then I shall be the most impatient of all men.

I WAS at a loss how to answer this letter, so as to feed his fire, and preserve the modesty I made appear to him upon all occasions: But lest I should seem incapable of writing, having never before blacked paper to him, notwithstanding his repeated solicitation to the contrary, I returned him, by Mr. *Warden*, the following answer.

*Reverend Sir,*

IT would now seem preposterous, after I condescended to come to this house at your desire, and with no other view than to have the benefit of your conversation, as often as your time would permit, to dissuade you from coming to see me. Mean time I must discover my dislike of your taking the benefit of the night, because the malicious world, regardless of your sanctity and my innocence, would readily scandalize us both, should you, at any time, be observed coming to my room at an unseasonable hour. It is therefore my humble opinion and advice, with respect to your better judgment, that you should put off your visit till to-morrow afternoon, when I shall expect the pleasure and honour of your good company, than which nothing can be more acceptable to your humble servant,

CONSTANTIA.

HAVING dispatched this answer, I began to consider what reception I should give his reverence, should he visit me that night, as I expected: To receive him with open arms, at the first onset, would not quadrate with the notion he had of my virtue, and make him, perhaps, undervalue his prize, as it cost him no pains in



the acquisition ; for man commonly likes to meet with some opposition in affairs of this nature. I designed therefore to resist his efforts, though ever so violent, till he should come up to my price, or till I should hook him into a promise of marriage ; which was my drift all along, and which I thought one of his profession would not pretend to violate, like the rest of the fashionable world, who glory in deceiving and ruining young innocent creatures, too much led on to their destruction by the natural bent of their own youthful passions. But how much I have been disappointed in my opinion of his veracity, the event will plainly show.

ABOUT eleven o'clock, my gentleman made his appearance, for the first time, at my back-door, which he (pulling a key out of his pocket) opened, and walked softly into my room. He no sooner entered, than he flew about my neck, and, without speaking one word, kissed me to such a degree, that I was ready to faint for want of breath. Pray, Sir, said I, as soon as I got my mouth disengaged, what means this profusion of kindness ? Is it not enough to salute one in a friendly discreet manner, without being thus suffocated, and almost kissed to death ? Forbear, I intreat you, that I may peaceably enjoy the satisfaction I promised myself in your company, since I had no other motive in coming to this place. Mr. *Spintext* himself was so out of breath, that he could not directly reply ; at last recovering, in some measure, said, Be not surprised, my dear *Constance*, to see me all extasy and rapture, since heaven cannot bestow a greater blessing than the treasure I have now within my arms. Nay, heaven itself is a joke to my present happiness. Not so lavish of your encomiums, Mr. *Spintext*, replied I, interrupting him, lest he should farther blaspheme ; and let me ask you, what tempted you to come to my room at this unseasonable hour ; for none but Mrs. *Brissay* could find fault with your seeing me in the day-time. Love, answered he, likes to grope in the dark ; therefore prefers this solitary hour to the brightest summer's day. Besides, our connection is not as yet so manifest, as to prevent public censure, should I avowedly pay my respects to you. However, my design is to remove this obstacle by marriage;

riage, if you please, as soon as I am installed in a benefice which a certain friend promised to procure for me. I am too young, as yet, replied I, to entertain any thoughts of matrimony, besides the duty incumbent upon me of advising with my parents before I enter upon such a serious state of life. You may consult them, answered he, after the nuptials, as well as before, because, for our mutual interest, we must carry every thing on with the greatest secrecy. However, if you make it a point of conscience to ask their consent, we will refer the ceremonial part to a proper opportunity ; but that does not forbid us the enjoyment of one another in the mean time ; for marriage, though reckoned among the vulgar and ignorant, a solemn tie and engagement, ordained by God himself, is no more than the bare institution of man.

It is true, the church of *Rome*, for some political reasons, made it one of their sacraments ; yet so little regard do the priests themselves pay to it, that, notwithstanding their frequent commerce with the fair sex, none of them ever marry. Pray explain yourself, answered I ; for, upon my word, I know not what you would insinuate by enjoyment. My meaning is, replied he, in plain words, that we should not hesitate to gratify ourselves in quality of man and wife, for want of the public ceremony, which in itself is indeed but a meer chimæra ; yet, supposing it essentially necessary, am not I as well qualified to give it its proper weight and sanction, as any other of my profession ? Our church confesses, that antenuptial fornication is no crime ; for the fruits thereof, if born in what we call wedlock, were always legitimate : And let me tell you, that if all the bishops of this church would speak with the same candour and ingenuity as I do, they would confess, that there is no sin in enjoying a woman upon any terms. To forbid us the mutual satisfaction of one another, would be to fly in the face of God, who expressly commanded us to increase and multiply, without giving us the least hint of the matrimonial ceremony. Let us therefore improve our time, which is but short ; do all the good we can in our day and generation ; and answer the grand end of our creation, that we may not be intitled to the

eurfe intailed on the tree, which bearing no fruit, is to be cut down, and cast into the fire. If there be no crime, replied I, in what we commonly call fornication, why should the scriptures say, that whoremongers and adulterers shall never enter the kingdom of heaven? By whoremongers, said he, are meant in scripture, such as make unto themselves graven images, and worship strange gods; adulterers meaning only those who commit that vile vice of sodomy. St. *Paul*, 'tis true, did preach, that we should not abuse ourselves with woman-kind, because he knew by experience, that excess of that nature was hurtful to man's body; yet he bids us, when we find a strong propensity for the sex, to marry rather than burn: As if he had said, If your passion or concupiscence is troublesome to you, and your blood in too great a fermentation, lose no time in applying to the proper remedy, a woman, the word marry signifying, be joined to, or ingrafted in her; whereas, if this ceremony required any other sanction than consent of the parties immediately concerned, St. *Paul* himself would have made it his business to join man and woman together, upon such occasions: But so far was he from thinking it necessary, that he gave no charge concerning it either to *Titus* or *Timothy*. Nor do we find any mention made of it by our Saviour, when he sent his disciples to preach to all nations, baptizing them, &c. But, Sir, said I, we have read of a marriage in *Cana* of *Galilee*, at which our Redeemer himself assisted. Yes, my dear, replied he, but not a word of a priest; for that was only a convocation of people to make merry at the bridegroom's expence, and witness the contract of provision for children, as every parent is obliged, both by law and nature, to maintain his offspring, lest it should become a burden to the public; which, you know, is a custom still subsisting amongst us. As to our Saviour's being there, it was a natural consequence of his mother and supposed father's being invited to it; yet we hear of no share he had in this ceremony, but the conversion of wine into water; which he did not so much in honour of the rites they were solemnizing, as in obedience to his mother, and to shew his miraculous

power



power to such a numerous concourse of people as were then convened.

BUT why should I, continued he, insist longer on this topic, which is clear enough to the meanest capacity? We all know, that we were made for the mutual use of one another—Let us therefore copy after pure nature, and imitate our grandsires *Adam* and *Eve*, who, without any formality or previous engagement, propagated, thro' mere instinct, their species, and thereby answered the end for which they were created.

HAVING thus spoke, he undressed me with his own hands, and obliged me to go to bed, whither he soon followed, and in a moment became master of my person, tho' not of my affections, because his false reasonings gave me a very bad impression of his morals and veracity.

BUT, oh! how changeable is the temper, and uncertain the promises and protestations, of faithless man, who, notwithstanding his indefatigable pains in seducing us, and the value he sets upon us before we yield, is no sooner master of the fort, than he vilifies his prize, and forgets the terms upon which we condescend to surrender. Yea, should we at any time remind him of them, he has cunning and address enough to elude and break them, without regard to his vows, to which he called God to witness, nor to the injury he does us, in depriving us of our honour, which is the greatest treasure we are mistresses of, and whose loss surpasses that of life itself. His brutal appetite and concupiscence is no sooner glutted and satiated with our spoils, than he regards us with contempt and scorn—She, whom he lately idolized and adored as a deity, becomes now a basilisk or a fiend in his eyes—His tender endearments are converted into bitter reproaches and satirical invectives; and the passive nymph is treated with the greatest disdain, and that for no other reason than her easy compliance with his earnest solicitations. Hard, very hard indeed, is the fate of woman, who is condemned to have her affections won only by enjoyment, which produces the quite contrary effect in man.

THE monster had scarcely turned the edge of his sensual and lustful appetite, by repeating the dose, when I found

found a sensible coolness both in his caresses and conversation; which gave me soon to understand, that his love, or even his regard, could not survive his lust. He now begins to retrench my subsistence, and forbids me to go abroad, under pain of being cashiered; he visits me but seldom, and never stays with me longer than the fit is upon him. Mrs. *Brissoy* (who always entertained him at her own charges) engrosses now the most of his time; and his only care concerning *Constantia*, is how to get quit of her.

THIS treatment resembled so much my late disaster, that I now began to regard all men in the same light, who, tho' never so diametrically opposite in their professions and outward deportment, are commonly of a piece in their morals and private sentiments, especially when our sex is concerned; which, duly considered, made me meditate a counter-plot, which, I hope, my fair readers will readily forgive me, when I tell them, that I manifestly foresaw, that my fate had been already determined, and that I was on the verge of being sent about my business, with the only satisfaction of having been his reverence's prostitute.

ACCORDINGLY I pretended to be with child; but the difficulty was how to communicate my pretended case to Mr. *Spintext*, who, I was afraid, had too much penetration to be thus imposed upon: Besides, he was now turned so refractory and captious, that there was no speaking to him upon any subject, but what he had broached first himself. But my circumstances could not admit of too great a delay; wherefore, to prevent the impending blow, which every moment threatened me, I determined to explain myself the first time he should honour me with a visit. It happened opportunely, in the course of a few days after I had formed my plot, that his reverence having been in company with a quorum of the fraternity (who, you know, drink always hard, and commonly of the best), and finding himself more than ordinarily stimulated, repaired to me, with a design to bestow the fruits of his evening-debauch upon me. This I judged a proper juncture to disclose my mind to him; for I well knew, that his good-humour and complaisance, which I rationally imputed to his intemperance, could not survive the

the fumes of his wine : Wherefore, before I granted the favour which his case at that time prompted him earnestly to ask, I gave him to understand, that I was no more intitled to the curse intailed upon the barren tree in the gospel. What do you mean by that ? replied he hastily. I mean, my dear, answered I, that I am with child ; and that it is full time for you to make good your engagements, and acknowledge me publicly for your lawful wife (which, in effect, I am before God and you), to save our reputations, and free our issue from the ignominious appellation of a *bastard*. This unexpected declaration threw his reverence into a brown study ; but, at last recovering himself, said, If you are with child, *Constantia*, you must do your best, first to get quit of it, and then to look out for a father to it. Are not you, my dear, answered I, the father of it ? I do not suppose I am, said he ; nor shall I be the fool to acknowledge what I suspect to be the property of another. However, if you do not think it convenient to apply to the right owner, I'll oblige my servant *Jack* to father it for a mere trifle, and the maintenance of the bastard. Am not I your wife, replied I, bursting out into tears (which, thank my stars, I still had ready at command) ; and why should I demean myself so much as to put up with your menial servant, either for a husband or a father to my child ? I shall never yield to such a dirty proposal. The world shall first know that you are my undoer, how inhumanly you treat me, and what a monster thou art, first to seduce me by the dint of argument, and then abandon and disown the chaste wife of your bosom, who wanted nothing to be really such but the consent of the church, which, you said, was in your own power to give ; and whose only crime is loving you too well, and believing your false deluding promises and protestations. But know, thou ungenerous epitome of ingratitude, that I will never put up with this affront, and that revenge and hatred shall henceforth banish all the remains of affection I have for you. I know what to have recourse to, and will leave no stone unturned to expose you to the world, particularly to your brotherhood, who, in justice, cannot fail to redress my grievances. Pray, *Constantia*, replied Mr. *Spintext*, would you have any man in his senses

marry



marry a common whore ; or do you suppose me such a novice in the feats of *Venus*, as not to have discovered, that I have been all along going in a beaten path ? And as to your exposing me to my brother-churchmen, 'tis what troubles me not in the least : for my character, thank God, is so well established in the world, as not to admit of a taint of that nature. The clergy, instead of believing your report, will readily conclude, that you thus attack my reputation through pique and malice, for reproving you for your loose and dissolute life ; besides, the scripture says, Thou shalt not bear a false report or accusation against an elder, but before two or more witnesses ; and where can you produce a single one : Whereas my friend Mr. *Warden* will maintain and swear, that your spite against me is altogether owing to the friendly admonition and exhortation I have (tho' to no purpose) bestowed upon you at his desire ; he can also attest, that his house had been so pestered with your gallants, that he was often tempted to have turned you out of doors before quarter-day, had he not been afraid that the law would have taken place.—This I think my indispensable duty to premise, before I leave you to your own discretion, which might perhaps lead you on to your destruction. Be advised therefore either to father your child, if there is such, upon my servant, or confine yourself very close within doors, till you are delivered, and then expose the infant, as it shall seem most convenient : I will take the same care of you during and after your confinement, as I have done hitherto. But finding me absolutely against his proposals, and fully resolved to prosecute him according to law, which, thanks to the compilers thereof, is always favourable to us ladies in such cases, whether right or wrong, he began to change both his tone and stile, and endeavoured to sooth my passion, which I industriously indulged, to compel his reverence to a more favourable way of thinking. My dear *Constantia*, says he, I must confess you have all the reason in the world to be enraged at the proposals I have made, and which I never intended you should put in execution. All my design in stirring you up to this degree of choler, was to see you once in a passion, that I might be thoroughly acquainted with your temper, before I acknowledge you  
publicly

publickly for my wife. It is true my situation is such, as I told you formerly, that I cannot marry you at present, without running a risk of losing the benefice intended for me by a certain friend, with a view to link me to the interest of his family, and so oblige me to marry a deformed sister, which he cannot dispose of otherwise with credit: But were I once installed in this benefice, I would laugh at her and all the world besides, and take my charming *Constantia* to partake of my good fortune. Mean time it concerns us both, continued he, to act with caution and moderation, and conceal as much as possible your present circumstances. I shall use my utmost endeavour to remove the cause of your apprehensions and fears by some chemical specifics, which I have frequently applied with great success.

To this I answered, That I would never trust him, or any other in his name, to administer medicines to me, till I should have his written obligation to perform his prior promise; for, added I, how can I rely with safety upon the faith of a person who can easily baffle me, if I have nothing but his verbal promise to show for his engagements. Besides, Sir, you have taught me to be diffident of you for the future, by explaining to me the difficulties I should meet with, in case of a tryal, to prove and maintain my assertions. I am therefore very thankful for being in my pregnancy, which, I am sure, will plead powerfully in my behalf, should our marriage ever come in competition. However, if you incline, that I should comply with your last proposal (I think you meant abortion), you ought to give me some document in writing, though never so trifling in itself, to make me, in some measure, easy in my mind, during my dependency.

THIS put him to a nonplus; so that he found it absolutely necessary to accede to this last overture. Accordingly, before we parted, he let me have his obligation; whereby he obliged himself, under penalty of being publicly exposed, to marry me as soon as his circumstances would permit; but not, I suppose, without a distant view of becoming master of it himself, by virtue of the specific which he intended to administer unto me.

WHEREFORE, apprehensive of the wicked design he had upon my life, I clandestinely removed from Mr.

Warden's to a certain house by *Shore-ditch*, from which I dispatched a porter, the next day after my elopement, with the following letter.

*Reverend Sir,*

'T IS with the greatest indignation and horror I hereby acquaint you, that I am not at all a stranger to the wicked and barbarous design you had not only upon my child's life, which is hitherto but in embryo, but also upon my own : to avoid which, I thought it indispensibly necessary to remove timely from your inhuman friend's house, who, I sincerely believe, would not only connive at, but also perpetrate, the greatest wickedness your malicious heart could invent.—You have, 'tis true, given me your obligation to make me your wife ; but I henceforth dispense with that honour, because, were I once yours, my life would be no longer my own. You may expect, nevertheless, to see your name, character, and obligation, exposed in the public gazette, if you do not, without loss of time, redeem the latter with a sum of money ; I will not say how great, tho' I give you to understand, that no sum under five hundred pounds can silence the tongue and pen of her, who is no more your

CONSTANTIA.

How thunderstruck Mr. *Spintext* had been upon receipt of this letter, I leave the judicious reader to judge. A thousand times he begged of the porter, who had a strict charge to conceal the place of my abode, to let him know where I lived. But to no purpose ; for the porter strenuously asserted, that the letter had been given to him at the *Royal Exchange* by a young woman, who promised to meet him there again about four o'clock, to receive the answer. It would have made any disinterested person laugh to have heard the porter tell how he (Mr. *Spintext*) changed colours while he was perusing my letter, which he read over and over ; and what strong efforts he made to conceal his confusion. But his guilt was so painted in his face, that his hypocrisy, of which he had too great a share, could not screen him from the discerning porter. Various thoughts crowded upon his mind ; but which of them to choose for my purpose was the question.



question. Sometimes he would tell the bearer, that it required no answer ; and sometimes call him back, and bid him wait for it. Considering, at last, the effects of a woman's passion, provoked to the highest degree, as I had seemingly been, he retired into his closet, with a view of soothing me to a belief of his love and regard for me, by the following answer.

*My dear Angel,*

Should *Gabriel* himself descend from Heaven, to tell me, that you have taken such a wrong step as your letter mentions, I should suspect him for a cheat ; and tell him to his face, that he was rather an emissary of the father of lies than an angel from Heaven. Nothing less than the convincing proof of your hand-writing could ever impose upon me a belief of your proving false. It is not, my charmer, worldly shame, or public scandal, that I apprehend from your proceedings ; no, these are but meer bagatells in comparison with my loss. 'Tis the loss of you that brings along with it a train of ills and mischiefs, which I cannot long support. But what pierces me to the very soul is your cruel suspicion of my having a design upon your life ! that life which is dearer to me than my own, and all the world besides. Is it possible, my angel, that you should thus forsake and betray me ? Shall I believe my own eyes ? or shall I rather believe, that some dæmon, envious of my happiness, has extorted the secret from you, and counterfeited your hand-writing, to throw me into despair, and make me for ever distracted ? This must be the case. But when I consider, that you are to be found no more in the house of my friend, I dread the worst. Return, I pray you, to your old lodgings ; and dispel, by your heavenly presence, those irksome clouds of despair which hover over me. But if thou art absolutely set against me, and designest to curtail my wretched life, which cannot subsist without thee, let me, at least, hear from thee, that I may once, before I die, glut those eyes of mine (which must flow to their last tear in your absence), with the heavenly strain which shall distil from your divine pen. Your com-

pliance in either of these cases, tho' infinitely more in the first, will eternally oblige

*Your unalterable Slave.*

THIS letter, you may be sure, gave me great pleasure and satisfaction; it plainly discovered how matters stood with Mr. *Spintext*; and that he was extremely afraid, that I would use him as his villainy deserved.

BEFORE he had time to meditate a counterplot, or recover from his consternation, I dispatched my faithful courier with a second letter, to confirm him in his apprehension; and assure him, that I was positively determined to adhere to the minutest article I intimated in my last.

S I R,

**I** Should deservedly suffer the punishment you intended to have inflicted upon me, were I fool enough to believe once more your protestations of love and kindness; since it is manifest, that my ruin and disgrace is intirely owing to your deluding tongue. In vain therefore you would persuade me, that you still love me. Your conduct for the time past has put me upon my guard against you, and taught me to mistrust, for the future, every thing that shall come from your quarter.—You seem surprised, forsooth, that I have taken this step, so much to your prejudice; but pray, is there a woman, were she not insensible, even to stupidity, who would not, in my situation, have acted the same? 'Tis true, I have not taken these measures so much with a view of saving my life, which, indeed, is hardly worth the preserving, and must be still a dead weight upon me, as of being revenged of your treachery. The whole business of this wretched life, which you have rendered almost intolerable, shall consist in imbittering your days, by publishing to the world how unworthy thou art of the character you generally bear in it; and how grossly your practices bely your profession. No consideration under the sum specified in my last, shall hinder me from prosecuting you with the utmost rigour of the law.—You have no time to lose before you come to your final determination. Either redeem your matrimonial obligation, or expect to see your-  
self

self exposed in your proper colours to-morrow, in the  
public daily papers by, S I R,

CONSTANTIA.

THIS peremptory letter had the desired effect. The messenger returned with the agreeable news, that, at six of the clock that same evening, I should repair to the *Fountain Tavern*, and there receive my money, upon giving up the obligation. Accordingly, having ordered the porter to follow me at a proper distance, I hired a coach and came to the rendezvous, where, to my no small satisfaction, I found my old friend Mr. *Warden* reckoning over and over my five hundred pounds, at which my teeth watered; for I ingenuously confess, that I never in my life thirsted more for any man's money than I did for the parson's, which I acquired with as little trouble as possibly could be expected, considering with whom I had to do; and that this had been my first *coup de l'industrie*. Having received my money, without returning the obligation (for the fellow was so confounded with my presence, as he connived with Mr. *Spintext* in his wickedness), that he forgot to ask for it. I went directly home, exulting in my good fortune, and promising myself success in whatever I should undertake for the future, since I succeeded thus well in an affair which had but a very bad aspect from the beginning.

I HAVE still Mr. *Spintext*'s promise of marriage in my possession; and I believe his reverence is not this day without his apprehensions, lest I should expose him, or come upon him for another equivalent sum; which I design to continue in his own hands, for my last extremity. However, as my finances are now pretty low, through the general stagnation of trade, particularly of the branch in which I dealt, and he in very opulent circumstances, I hope he will be pleased to consider me, and thereby prevent any unnecessary trouble, which my hard fortune may, in process of time, oblige me to give him. He knows where I live, so let him take this hint as he shall think proper.

BUT,



BUT, as the proverb says, *What is got over the Devil's back, is commonly spent under his belly*, I lived very fast, and my purse turned considerably flatter every day. It was now high time to look out for another dupe to support my extravagance, which I could never retrench, tho' I dreaded nothing more than poverty. My beauty, affluence, and sumptuous entertainment, soon procured me a croud of visitors and admirers : But the difficulty was, how to single out a gallant fit for my purpose, rich, and easy to be fleeced. Fortune, at last, threw one in my way, who, tho' not easily duped, was immensely rich, and sufficiently generous.

THIS gentleman (whose son is this day a considerable dealer upon *Change*) being then an alderman of the city of *London*, happened to come, opportunely for me, to a certain relation's house by *Shoreditch*, whither I had been invited that afternoon to drink tea, and play at cards. We were but four in number, the gentleman of the house, his lady, the alderman, and I. The match was already agreed upon ; there was no separating man and wife ; consequently the alderman fell to my share, which happened according to my wish ; for his cheerfulness and affability proclaimed him either a batchelor or a widower, after the interment of a scolding turbulent wife, rather than a husband clogged with the irksome noose of matrimony. The word was *Whist*, at which we scarcely play'd three rounds, when the victory declared in our favours: Upon which my gentleman rose up from his seat, and kissed me ; saying, that I was undoubtedly the best partner ever he play'd with. I am sure, replied the mistress of the house, with a malicious sneer (which gave a double entendre to her expression), your lady plays as well as most women. The word *lady* was like to have blasted all my hopes, had not the alderman replied, that I was able to teach his wife ; for which reason I am determined, added he, to come once every week to make a party at whist, if Miss, meaning me, will be pleased to accept of me for a partner. This I thought a good introduction to the scene I was to act ; therefore used all the

the artifices peculiar to our sex, to render myself agreeable to him, and feed the growing flame which I already perceived in his eyes. When I was about to go home, he offered me his service, which I, with an affected blush, modestly declined ; thanking him at the same time for his civility, and telling him, that I should be glad to have the honour of his company in my apartment, when he should come next to our end of the town.

HOWEVER, before he went away, he inquired very strictly concerning me ; but all he could learn was, that I lived in that neighbourhood for some time past, at a great rate, and entertained very genteely in my own house, where nobody was known to visit me but the neighbours. The received opinion of me was, that I had eloped from my parents or guardians, for some disobligements and crosses in matrimonial affairs ; yet that I had never discovered to any person there, who I was, or from whence I came. This discovery, instead of satisfying his curiosity, made him still more anxious and inquisitive, so as not to be contented till he should decypher my history. Accordingly, in a few days, he came to my house, which was in his way to his friend's, and asked me to go along with him to the rendezvous. I thanked him very obligingly for giving himself the trouble of calling upon me, but said, that I was so indisposed, that I could not venture abroad, tho' well enough to receive company at home. Upon which he modestly expressed his concern, with regard to my indisposition ; tho' one might easily perceive by him, that he was noways sorry with having such an opportunity of entertaining me alone. After the complements of the day were over, he insinuated, that, since I could not make one of the party at whist, he would return home without seeing his friend for that day ; intimating, at the same time, that he would be glad to pass a few hours in my company before he should go, if it should not be inconvenient. Your company, Sir, replied I, will be very acceptable to me, as long as your time will permit you to stay ; but these few hours, I'm afraid, will seem tedious to you.

O madam, said he, you do me a great deal of honour ; but I must tell you, that you seem to accuse me of a want of politeness, in suspecting that my time should lie heavy upon me in your company. By no means, answered I ; but we that are country-bred are not the properest in the world to entertain you citizens. You are then from the country ? replied he. I told him I was. Upon which he seemed surprised, and said, that I betrayed so little of a country-education, that one would readily conclude, by my easy carriage and affability, that I had been born and bred about court. 'Tis so far from that, Sir, said I, that I have not been above a couple of months within the bills of mortality, and know no part of the town hitherto but *Shoreditch*. Pray, madam, required he, why did you put up in this remote corner of it ; for I suppose you come with a design of seeing the rarities in and about *London*, learn the customs, and partake of the public diversions thereof ? I answered, that I was rather come to pass my days in obscurity, for which reason I chose that part of the town as the remotest and least frequented, particularly by my relations and acquaintances, who would soon find me out, did I lodge in the court-end of the town. I find then, madam, said he, that your friends have highly offended you, when you thus fly them ? I would therefore gladly learn the reason of your elopement, if it should not seem impertinent in me, who am a stranger to you, to inquire or pry into your secret affairs. Not at all, Sir, answered I ; your freedom is very welcome : for I do not suppose, that you inquire into my history with a view of communicating it to others ; wherefore, to satisfy your curiosity, I will relate the whole affair, without varying in one single circumstance, as far as my memory serves me, if your time will allow you to hear it out. He thanked me for my condescension, and said, that he would think his time very well bestowed ; assuring me, that I might depend upon his prudence and taciturnity. Whereupon I began my narrative, as follows.—I am the only daughter of a wealthy gentleman in *Wales*, who always prevented my



my wishes, and indulged me in all my childish impertinences, till I arrived at an age of being admired and courted by the young gentlemen of the county in which I lived. These gentlemen made their addresses to me, which I received with equal complaisance to them all ; tho' one of them (whom I shall call *Fidelius*) had the ascendant over me, and should have been my choice of all mankind, did my parents but approve of it. But so far were they from this, that they represented him to me, upon all occasions, as a libertine abandoned to all vice and immorality.— However, my affections were so well and deservedly fixed, that nothing could shake them ; and his love for me was such, that neither the indignities put upon him by my father, nor the remonstrances of his friends, who took great pains to shew him the folly of indulging a passion, which, by all appearance, he could not gratify, were able to blast it : So that he never slipt an opportunity of paying his respects to me privately, which met with all the decent returns imaginable on my side. But this private intercourse was soon discovered by my father, who thereupon confined me to my room, and debarred me from the use of pen, ink, and paper. My confinement, instead of lessening my esteem for *Fidelius*, increased it more and more : All my thoughts were employed in contemplating every virtue of which he was master ; for he was endowed with all the good qualities you could wish for in a young man. He was handsome to a miracle ; and his easy air, and majestic deportment, rendered him acceptable to all who had the honour of his acquaintance, but my parents. I often wondered how they, who were discerning enough in every other thing, could be insensible to so many charms and good qualities as I espied in him. Surely, thinks I, their judgment must needs be impaired, else they would never have hindered their only child from partaking of so many blessings as he is capable of bestowing : Or it is common with all parents to thwart the inclinations of their children in matrimonial affairs, without considering that the latter is more immediately concerned ; and that their chiefest happiness on this side of time depends upon a proper choice in such cases. But, alas ! mine were not content with my confinement, and balking my love for *Fidelius*,

but would also oblige me to give my consent to whomsoever they would choose for me, as being, in their opinion, better judges of what would suit with my temper best. To this I found myself under a necessity of giving a seeming approbation; which I did with the greater alacrity, as I expected it would contribute to my enlargement, and give me an opportunity of seeing, or at least of corresponding with my dear *Fidelius*. Accordingly, my father came one day to see me in my confinement; and, after he had represented to me the heinousness of the crime I had been guilty of, in disobeying my parents, and placing my affections on one, who, he was sure, did not deserve them, he told me, that he hoped I was convinced of my error, and ready to accept of a gentleman he had singled out for me, and whom he thought deserving of the best lady in the county. I must confess, replied I, father, that I have deservedly incurred your displeasure by my imprudence, in offering to choose for myself in such an important affair as matrimony, without your approbation; but, for the future, I design to square my life by your directions, and give thorough obedience to whatever you'll think proper to enjoin me, especially the choice of a husband; so that you have nothing but to name your will, and it shall punctually be observed. You are in the right on't, my child, said he; therefore will impose nothing upon you against your inclination. What would you think then of Mr. *Morgan* for a husband? Sir, If he is your choice, replied I, I have nothing to say against him. 'Tis very well, daughter, said he; I henceforth free you from your confinement, so prepare yourself to receive Mr. *Morgan* for a husband; but take special care not to see or correspond with that reprobate *Fidelius*, under pain of incurring my highest displeasure. I was so unacquainted with dissimulation, that I was afraid lest my father should discover the cheat; but I had the good-fortune to persuade him, that I was sincere in all I said; so went away the contentedest man in the world with my conversion, and left me to ruminate on the dilemma in which I was with regard to my intended nuptials with Mr. *Morgan*, a gentleman, tho' considerably rich, so much inferior to my *Fidelius* in parts and person, that I was surprised how my father could

could be so blind as to choose him for me, if it was not to shew the despotic power which parents pretend to have over their children, and which they frequently exercise *mal-a-propos*. Mean time, being released, as I told you, I found an opportunity of acquainting *Fidelius* (who was by this time despairing of ever seeing me) of my embarrass, and of my approaching marriage with Mr. *Morgan*, to whom I had been already obliged to plight my promise, which I should be soon compelled to perform, if he would not assist me to divert the impending blow. *Fidelius*, upon hearing my distress, wrote me a very passionate and moving letter, in which he expressed the most tender sentiments of a soul truly touch'd with a sincere flame; but seemed rather to consult my interest than his own passion. He advised me to obey my parents, rather than incur their displeasure; though such a compliance could not but prove very fatal to him. His soul was so wrapt in mine, and his grief so absorb'd in my distress, that, forgetting his own peace and future happiness, all his care and thoughts were employed in my behalf. But, alas! what could he do? He plainly saw, that there was no opposing the will of an austere rigid father, such as mine was, and that my nuptials with Mr. *Morgan* were inevitable; therefore begged, that I would comply without opposition, and banish him for ever from my mind, as the readiest way to make me happy in my intended new state. This generous advice, instead of setting my mind at liberty, and dissolving my engagements, linked my inclinations to him more and more. I found, that it was but a mere jest to pretend to force nature, and oppose the *penchant* of one's heart; and that love was a distemper too obstinate for the wisest counsels, and the most persuasive arguments, to remove: The more we strive to stifle it, the more it blazes and consumes. Happy are they, thought I with myself, whose souls are not susceptible of this turbulent, though sometimes pleasant passion. Their days shall pass with uninterrupted ease, and their slumber is not broke by whimsical dreams, or the chimerical delusions of a love-sick brain. They have no cause to controul the will of their parents, and are happy in whatever choice others will make for them. But this was far from being my case;



all my wishes were center'd in *Fidelius*, of whom I dream'd both night and day, tho' sleep was a stranger to my eyes. At last, through despair and reverie, I wrote him this inconnected letter; of which I am ashamed to be author: however, since I design to prevaricate in no point of my history, I will repeat it to you word by word.

*Dear Fidelius,*

**I**F it were true, that our sorrows should grow lighter by communicating them to others, my grief would certainly abate by being imparted to you. But, alas! I find it quite otherways; for, since I received your last letter, in which you basely agreed, that I should, in obedience to an unreasonable father, banish you from my mind, and marry the man in the world I hate most, I am like to run distracted. Your tamely consenting to such an odious affair, makes me suspect the sincerity of your passion; which, I fear much, you have indulged merely to disconcert my measures, without giving yourself the least uneasiness. If this be the case, what a pity it is that I cannot so easily dispense with you, and solace myself in the enjoyment of your rival! But why do I call him your rival, since thou art no more that fond, that loving *Fidelius*! And that you now give up your pretensions to me, as if I never had had a place in your heart.

PARDON me, dear *Fidelius*! if I unjustly suspect you. I am ready to recant, and believe that thou art still the true, the loving, and constant *Fidelius*, I thought you to be, when I had the pleasure of seeing you last in my father's gardens. Blest solitary walks! in which we regaled ourselves with transporting, tho' innocent, tales of love: Those shady groves, in which, methinks, I still see you walk, and hear you speak, have frequently been my sweetest retreats, and were the only joy I could relish in your absence. If these imaginary notions can yield so much pleasure, what transporting joys are those which your real presence would inspire. But, oh heavens! when I consider that I am already, in a manner, betrothed to another, consequently secluded from thee for ever, what distracting thoughts possess my soul, which every moment threatens to forsake my half-motionless body,

as

as if it were on the wing to fly to thee. Consider, my charming *Fidelius*, that not only my happiness, but my life also, is in your hands; strick, therefore, a medium, and assist me to avoid this menacing storm, which hangs over me, and is ready to burst upon me: And, as I am intirely devoted to you alone, dispute me with my cruel kindred, and deliver me from the impious hands of an odious husband. Husband! did I say? it must not be while my affections are wedded to thee; he is rather an adulterous intruder, who would possess me against my will. Alas! why do not you, instead of advising me to comply with my parents, urge me, in the strongest manner, to abandon such monsters, and renounce the glaring pomp which their frowns and displeasure can withhold? These are but mere trifles, compared to the happiness I figure to myself in your possession. Why should I therefore hesitate to make my choice, fly unto you for relief, and thereby incur my father's displeasure, which your smiles can compensate? But whither does my wild despair and roving fancy hurry me? Modesty, assist me, and let me no further transgress your bounds. Meantime suffer me, dear *Fidelius*, to assure you, that tho' my parents can dispose of my person, they can never alienate my affections, which are, and shall remain, firmly center'd in my *Fidelius*.

WHETHER this letter came to *Fidelius*'s hands, I cannot tell; and if it had, what could he have done? I was so closely watched, that it was impossible for him to see me: And to have wrote to me, would have been to no purpose, since he could not write in a more tender manner than he had done before. In short, the hateful day of solemnizing my nuptials with Mr. *Morgan* was approaching, and every thing seemed to be in the greatest readiness for that purpose, but me, who looked more like a widow after the funeral of her beloved husband, than a bride. However, it was determined, that I should be made a sacrifice to the caprice of a testy and unreasonable father, who, to gild the pill, and make me undergo the task with greater alacrity, let me have four hundred pounds pin-money, exclusive of my portion, which, I believe, would have been pretty considerable, had I staid

to

to enjoy it. This enabled me to put a scheme, which I had formed some time before, in practice ; which was to abscond in some remote corner, till I should be given up for dead. In this case, I was sure my intended husband would make his addressees to another lady, who, perhaps, might be proud to receive them. Accordingly, I was no sooner mistress of this four hundred pounds, than I went to consult my nurse, who lived in our neighbourhood, and was the only person I could trust with such an important secret. This sympathizing honest woman, upon hearing my melancholy complaint, began to exclaim against the severity of parents in general, and of mine in particular, who would force my will merely to serve their own caprice ; for tho' matrimony, continued she, be the most important action of one's life, yet it is, perhaps, the only action in which children are not allowed, even after they are arrived at the years of discretion, to choose for themselves. A parent would readily observe and challenge the disproportion of his child's dress, but never regards the inequality of the age and temper of both parties, provided there is riches in the case, which I am sure cannot of itself yield any solid pleasure or satisfaction in the matrimonial state. But, my dear child, added she, since I see it impracticable to put off this match, to which you seem to be so much averse, without my assistance (for to advise with many might prove of bad consequence), we will send for my brother, who is not far from this : him we may safely trust with your scheme ; and as he is acquainted over all *England*, he shall conduct you to *London* ; which I take to be the properest place for your purpose. I readily agreed to this overture ; as indeed I would have done to any that could favour my escape. Accordingly the day for my elopement was named, and her brother was sent for, who came at the hour appointed, with a horse ; upon which, after I had dressed myself in man's cloaths (which my nurse provided for that purpose), I mounted, and, by the directions of my faithful guide, arrived safely in the neighbourhood of this place. All I apprehend now is, lest, being advertised, and a reward offered to any who may discover me, some malicious wretch may be wicked enough to detect me for the sake of the reward.

THIS



THIS much thought I proper, Sir, to communicate, as well to satisfy your curiosity, as to command your pity and protection, if, at any time, I may have the misfortune to be exposed to the rigour and inhumanity (I can call it no less) of a barbarous incensed father.

I AM too well acquainted, Miss, replied he, with the disadvantages which commonly attend marriages patch'd up by parents, without the mutual consent of the parties more immediately concerned, to disapprove of your conduct. I therefore promise not only to conceal what you have related to me, but also to protect you as far as in me lies, from whatever injury may be offered you. I will likewise make it my business, if at any time you should be advertised, to see you settled so as to be out of the power of your relations and acquaintances to find you out. I thanked him in terms full of respect, and told him, that I reckoned myself very happy to have such a worthy gentleman as him for my director and confident.

IT was now grown late, and full time for the alderman to go home; but before he went away, he asked me whether my cash was run out yet. I answered in the negative. 'Tis not proper it should, says he, clapping a purse of fifty guineas in my hand; and with that took leave very abruptly, that I might not, I suppose, have an opportunity of returning his bounty. When he was at the door, he cried to me, that he would do himself the pleasure to wait of me again as soon as possible. Upon which I dropt a curtsy, and retired into my closet with my booty; exulting in my good success, which promised me a rich harvest of the alderman, who, I perceived, wanted nothing but an opportunity to declare himself. To succeed the better in my plot, which had already taken place, I advertised myself in the public papers, as if it were by my supposed father, and offered a reward to any person whatsoever that would give any account of me. I described my person so well in this advertisement, that the alderman had no sooner read it, than he came to gave me notice of it. Upon which I pretended to be in the greatest disorder imaginable, and said that I was so lively described, that the neighbours, who already entertained a notion of my elopement, would immediately conclude that I was the lady meant in the advertisement;  
and

and would, perhaps, think they were doing me a service when they would force me back to my parents. Be not, said he, in the least concerned about that ; I shall take care to have you soon removed to a certain house, where you shall live in great security. Meantime, satisfy your landlord for your present lodgings, let his demands be ever so exorbitant, that he may not have any reason to oppose your removal till the end of the quarter, or make inquiry after you. To-morrow morning I will send a coach to carry you to your new lodgings, which, I hope, is by this time ready for your reception.

ACCORDINGLY, next morning, a coach came, and carried me to a stately house by *Moorfields* ; which I had scarcely entered, when the alderman came to wish me joy of my new habitation. Every thing here was in the best order : Genteel furniture, wines and spirits of all kinds, a cook, a chambermaid, and a footman in livery. All which pleased me very well ; so that I had nothing further to wish, could I promise myself the continuance of my good-fortune. But it was more than probable, that such a grandeur and flow of fickle fortune could be permanent. It was therefore necessary to make hay while the sun shined. Thinks I, this is certainly one of the whims of the jilt Fortune, which sports herself upon all occasions with the various changes she commonly produces in all sublunary things. Whatever we can call ours, is incontestably in her power, and she disposes of it according to her own whimsical conceit. Now, if she thus disposes of what is properly ours, how much more of those benefits which depend upon others, and which we can no longer command, than we are mistresses of the hearts and affections of the donators ? These were, you'll say, natural reflections for me, who, young as I was then, had been frequently disappointed, and thrown, as it were, from the summit of blooming hopes to the abyss of despair, and that by ungrateful man ! of whom I was now resolved to be revenged in my turn, without respect of persons. But matters were not ripe as yet for me to begin to display my parts upon the alderman. I was obliged to remain inactive till I should have my gentleman so linked, as not to be able to disengage himself without my permission. I had not been long in this in-

action,

action, when he gave me room enough to indulge my genius ; for, in a few days after I came to my new lodgings, he began to reason me out of my pretended passion for *Fidelius* ; telling me, that that gentleman, despairing of ever seeing me, would soon forget me, and make his court to another lady, to compensate the loss he sustained in me. I should be very glad, Sir, replied I, to be confirmed in that opinion, because believing that *Fidelius* was easy in his mind, would contribute not a little to my happiness. And who should then be the happy man, required he, whom you should choose for a husband ? I told him, that my choice had been already made ; for that I was determined to marry no man, since I had not the approbation of my friends to wed the man I loved best. But pray, Madam, said he, how do you propose to maintain yourself in a single life, without remittances from your father ; which you must never expect while you continue concealed ? I gave him to understand, that my last resource should be a convent, but that I was afraid such a step might put it out of my power to repay him for the charges and trouble he was pleased to give himself upon my account ; therefore begged, that he would not only retrench his bounty for the future, but also receive what he had already given, since I had no apparent way of making him a suitable return. To this he answered, that he should be very sorry to see me reduced to that last shift, a convent ; whither, continued he, no woman but such as finds herself unfit for the world, ought to retire ; and to which I should never have occasion to go, should I be advised by him : and as to what I have done for you already, says he, they are but the forerunners of the favours I intend to bestow upon you. Your bounty and generosity, Sir, replied I, would oblige me, were it even contrary to my inclination to yield to your better judgment. I therefore abandon myself to your direction and discretion——Madam, said he, interrupting me, a bargain let it be, and let us seal it with a kiss ; which I vouchsafed to grant him with seeming reluctance, saying, that I hoped he would not take advantage of my condescension. He does not deserve, Miss, replied he, to be esteemed as a man, who would not take a lady, especially an agreeable one, at her word, when it touches him in point of gallantry. I am determined therefore, that you shall have no reason to complain of me on that score. You wisely



mistake my words, Sir, answered I, if you suppose I meant you as my gallant; tho', to tell you my mind, were I disposed to accept of any one upon these terms, you should probably be the man: but I give you my word I had no such thing in view. Whether you meant it, or no, Madam, replied the alderman, I am determined to take your words in that sense, for two reasons; first, because they admit of such a construction; and, secondly, because I cannot be happy without you. Mean time assure yourself, dear Miss, added he, that you shall meet with all the civility imaginable from me. I shall always take care to furnish you with proper necessaries of life while I live, and put you out of the power of my friends after my death. To this I made no other reply than what my blushes, confusion, and silence, which he took for a good omen, gave him to guess. Every thing seemed to favour his design; night was approaching, and nothing stood in his way to happiness, as he called it, but the feeble resistance he expected from me, who, he saw, was already past the chanel, and more than half seas over.

AFTER we had supped, and drank a few glasses of excellent *Champagne*, he began to speak with greater freedom, and come closer to the purpose. In short, he strenuously insisted upon my going to bed; which I artfully put off for some time, by introducing something diverting, with a view to raise his passion to such a height as might render him incapable of judging whether he enjoyed my first fruits, or not. And let me tell you, by the bye, that I had used, for some time before, proper styptics and astringents, to impose upon his judgment in that point. At last, when he would be no longer denied, I condescended to go to bed, with the proviso, that tho' he was permitted to lie by me, he should offer me no violence. But we had no sooner laid down, than the woman came upon me, and he soon obtained the favour which he so earnestly pressed for, and which cost him, in the end, very dear, as you shall learn by the sequel.

Thus enjoyed, I upbraided him with a breach of trust, and exclaimed against the whole sex, who, continued I, always take advantage of the credulity and casiness of weak innocent young girls, who, apprehending no fallacy or deceit in man, are easily decoyed; which I now but too well know, to my woful experience.—He endeavoured to sooth my pretended choler, which, indeed, I had acted

to the life, by telling, that he would use me, in every respect, as if I were his lawful wife, tho' he could not confer that name upon me, in as far as he had the misfortune to be tied to another, whom he could never love as became a husband, for no other reason but because his father obliged him to marry her. He highly extolled the *Mahometan* law, which, added he, tolerates polygamy, and permits every individual to have as many wives as he can handsomely maintain. Finding, at length, that his rhetoric was not sufficient to suppress my sighs, he endeavoured to stifle them with repeated kisses, &c. in which he succeeded admirably well. The night was now far spent; and my gentleman, in a manner exhausted, thought proper to go home, and sleep away his intemperance with her who had been too long his wife to be able to divert him in any other shape more agreeably. Before he went away, he embraced me in a most tender and affectionate manner; assuring me, at the same time, that he would slip no opportunity of paying his respects to me. The alderman was scarcely gone, when a thousand thoughts rush'd into my mind.

THO' this gentleman, reasoned I with myself, be cautious and prudent enough to keep that a secret, which, if propagated, might be of bad consequence to himself, yet our domestics, though his own creatures, are still but servants; consequently ready, upon all occasions, to take a liberty of exposing the enormities of the family they live in: If so, then our commerce cannot be of a long duration, and I am again exposed to my shifts and inventions, which cannot be always equally fertile and fortunate. Some provision therefore must be made for the rainy day, while it is in our power; for an opportunity once lost cannot be regained by repentance. 'Tis true the alderman is generous, and gratitude bids me use him discreetly; but, thinks I, what have I to do with gratitude? He is a man, and as such must be treated; besides, this is my trade, and I must live by it. Does any person scruple to take the best price he can get for his commodity, of whatever denomination it may be, provided there is a bidder for it? Surely not. No more shall I. My gallant, I must own, is bountiful enough, while his love, or rather lust, for me, continues: But who can tell how long it may last; for the keenest appetite is soon cloyed; and he that is capable of cheating and hating the chaste wife of his bo-

son, will not, I am sure, hesitate to abandon his whore, when he is sufficiently palled, and sees that keeping of her derogates from his interest, and hourly endangers the peace of his family. All which, duly considered, determined me to act for my own interest, without regard to conscience, which, thank my stars, was never yet a bar to my operations, or the intentions of my gallant, which I could not fathom till it was, perhaps, too late to execute my design. However, the grandeur in which he kept me pleased me so well, that I resolved to give him no trouble till I found a sensible change in his affections; which, to do him justice, lasted longer than could be expected, considering how he has situated; for his lady soon found out, that his regard for her daily decreased, for which she could ascribe no apparent reason; yet knowing her husband to be a man of parts that never before failed in family duty, she began to suspect him of some clandestine amour. Accordingly, she employed spies to dodge him as oft as he went abroad: so that he was at last obliged, when he intended to see me, to pretend some business out of town; and, by that means, spent sometimes whole weeks in my company.

Tired, at length, of this constant restraint, and, perhaps, cloyed too, he told me one day, with a serious air, that his affairs were in such great disorder, for want of due attendance, that he should be obliged, for the future, to keep close at home; and that I would do well to return to my parents, who, he was sure, would receive me with open arms, and acknowledge themselves in the wrong for having offered to force my inclinations. To this I answered, that he needed not make such a long preamble, to let me know, that he was tired of me; for that I was sensible enough of his growing indifference towards me every day, tho' my hard circumstances obliged me to put up with it, and smother my resentment. But as to my returning home, continued I, bursting out into a flood of tears, it is what I am absolutely against; for I shall never be able to look any one of my friends in the face, with the loss of my honour: besides, I do not know but I am with child; and pray, what should become of me in that case? However, since we must part, and that I cannot return to my parents while I have the least suspicion of my being in my pregnancy, let me have a competent sum of money to maintain myself and babe, if I shall have the



misfortune of surviving the birth of it, in some obscure corner, where I may lie concealed from you, as well as from every other acquaintance. Indeed *Clarissa*, said he, (for that was the name by which I went then) my affairs and credit are at too low an ebb to admit of the least diminution. However, to shew you how ready I am to serve you, I shall make a stretch to let you have one hundred pounds; which, in the words of an honest dealer, is too much, considering my present circumstances. One hundred pounds, Sir? answered I, in a great passion. Why, Sir, you must needs be cursedly low, if you can spare no more; but I let you to know, that I am not altogether so silly as you take me to be; and that I will not be turned off at such an easy rate: No, Sir, you must first come down nine times one hundred with that, before I draw my discharge: My character is already ruined; and I am resolved, that yours shall not escape public examination, if you don't do me justice: So I beg you would consider, that the peace of your family depends much upon your future conduct towards me. Madam, said he, I find your passion has got the better of your judgment; wherefore I leave you to cool a little, that you may be able to consider more deliberately of what step you ought to take. Having thus spoke, he left me very abruptly, without wishing me a good day.

I WAITED a considerable time, with impatience, for the alderman's return; but to no purpose. This obliged me to send my footman (who, tho' formerly a creature of the alderman, was by this time intirely in my interest, for reasons best known to ourselves) with the following letter.

S I R,

THIS is to acquaint you, that if you do not immediately repair to this place, and bring along with you the sum already specified, or the conditions of an equivalent aliment, I shall forthwith go to your house, and lay the whole scene open to your spouse, let the consequence be what it will.

THE alderman was so intimidated by this menacing letter, that he came along with the bearer. I received him with an air which gave him to understand, that I did not reckon myself in the least obliged to him for his visit. However, he begged me, in the humblest manner, that

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I would have a regard to his circumstances, which, said he, are very hard at present. I answered, that I had been credibly informed, that his affairs were on as good a footing as ever; and that I was therefore determined to have one thousand pounds of his money, which, added I, is little enough for the loss of my honour and reputation. When he saw, that no consideration could make me bate a farthing of the aforesaid sum, he pulled out a canvas bag, containing five hundred pounds, and a letter-case, with notes of the like sum, which he, in a passion, threw into my lap, saying, that my honour and reputation, as I called it, cost him curfedly dear: But may I be damned, added he, if ever I am caught so again. Mean time, Madam, I desire you would remove from this house as soon as possible, and deliver the keys to the footman. Having thus spoke, he rushed out like a madman. He was no sooner gone, than I sent the footman for a pawnbroker, who lived in our neighbourhood, to purchase the furniture of the house, which the neighbours believed was my property. When the pawnbroker came, I told him, that as my business called me over to *France*, I was necessitated to dispose of my furniture, tho' much against my will, for money to defray my charges; so begged he would be so good as to let me have a certain sum of money for it. Why, Madam, said he, I seldom deal in goods of that nature, yet to serve you, as you are diffculted, I'll advance as much as I can for it, if you promise to redeem it again. I told him I would with all my heart; and that I preferred that to the selling of it. Accordingly, when he had looked over all the furniture, he profered me one hundred and fifty pounds; of which I very thankfully accepted, tho' far below the value of the goods, lest I should, by grasping at too much, run the risk of losing all.

THUS mistress of eleven hundred and fifty pounds, besides the remainder of my first purchase, I next appeared in *Red-Lion Square*, where I had not lived long, when an old batchelor, whose name we will conceal, and call the Justice of peace, in which character he then acted, made his addreses to me, not in what we call the honourable way, but with a view of gaining me on terms the men call *Keeping*. I pretended for a long time to be greatly offended with the liberty he assumed; and told him one day, that I was at a loss to know what step of my  
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conduct could encourage him, or any man whatsoever, to make me such base overtures; and thanked God my youth and opulence might procure me as good a match as he could pretend to be, on more honourable terms, if I was inclined to become subservient to man, who, added I, acts the tyrant more than the loving husband, in the matrimonial state; and thinks woman was given him to be his slave, not his companion. So begged he would not solicit me any more upon that score. Why, Madam, says he, you have all the reasons imaginable, I must confess, to be displeased with the proposal I have made you; but did you know the motives which induced me to offer my service to you in that shape, you would, at least, pardon the indignity offered your reputation, if not comply with my request. Assure yourself, Sir, answered I, that no consideration shall make me yield to your request, let the conditions be ever so advantageous, without the sanction of the church. However, I should be glad to hear your reasons for addressing me in the character of a libertine. Know then, Madam, said the Justice, since I must relate a story which indeed grieves me to think on, that in my younger years I had the misfortune to love a young lady, who, in all appearance, was a miracle of nature, accomplished in every good quality, which rendered her the ornament of her own sex, and the admiration of ours. Nature had been rather too profuse in forming her person, which excelled the strongest idea your fancy can suggest to you, of a most beautiful *Venus*; and, what is still more rare, her wit and good sense vied with her beauty; so that her acquaintance were at a loss which to esteem most, her parts or her person. Thousands made their court to her; and tho' she gave them no great encouragement, or hopes of success, they could not say but they were received with the greatest civility and complaisance by *Euphigenia* (for that was her name) who behaved with such circumspection towards them all, that every individual thought himself happy even in his repulse, because every one met with the same fate, and equally shared her good graces. Happy might I have been had I been classed with those gentlemen whom *Euphigenia* thus refused; but fate would have it otherwise, and I was declared her victim: It happened, by some unlucky accident, that I saw her one day in church; and loved her to distraction, without knowing any thing of her private or public character. I

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was resolved to wait till prayers (which, by the bye, ingrossed none of my thoughts, or attention, since I observed *Euphigenia*) were done, that I might discover where she lived, or at least learn who she was ; for I was sure such an exquisite creature could not but be well known to the inhabitants of that village, in which I was then but a stranger. During divine worship my eyes were so fixed upon *Euphigenia*, that she seemed to be the only idol I adored ; which she soon perceived, but took no notice of it, further than to let me know, that she observed me among the crowd of admirers which incessantly gazed upon her. When the service was done I followed her out of church. We were scarcely out of the choir, when I heard man, woman, and child, cry out, *Oh the pretty Miss B—*. Upon which I took occasion to ask, who was that Miss B— whom every one seemed to admire so much ? What, says one, don't you know the famous *Euphigenia*, Colonel B's only daughter ? Why, thought I, this is a good omen ; for I had a draught of one thousand pounds on the colonel, which gave me an opportunity (as you shall hear by and by) of paying my respects to *Euphigenia*. Full of the strong idea which the charming *Euphigenia* impressed on my mind, I went to the tavern, where I spent the afternoon in inquiry concerning Miss, whom every person I conversed with represented as an epitome of all perfections. I went next morning to the colonel's, not so much for the contents of the bill as to see his fair daughter, whom I was already resolved to court for my wife. The colonel received me very politely ; and after dinner paid me my thousand pounds. When I was about going away, to which, I must own, I had no will, he asked me, if I intended to stay for any time in town. I answered in the affirmative ; for I was determined to spend that thousand pounds, at least, upon *Euphigenia*. Upon which he begged, that I would not be a stranger to him, assuring me, I should be always welcome to his house. This was a very lucky hint, which, you may be sure, I punctually observed. In short, I found means of explaining myself to *Euphigenia*, who gave me a better reception than could be expected, considering the numerous and advantageous offers she slighted before. I was, in my own opinion, the happiest man in the world, to have met with her approbation, and wanted nothing to compleat my bliss but the colonel's consent, which was  
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very uncertain, by reason of the inequality of our fortunes. However, having the young lady on my side, I thought I might surmount that difficulty, either by a clandestine marriage, or by resigning her portion in favour of her brother, who was then a minor. But alas! the father studied the interest of his daughter, in whom all his affections seemed to be centred, too well to dispose of her at that rate, especially when many, whose fortunes were far superior to that of *Euphigenia*, were dying for love of her. When I had discovered my design to the colonel, he told me, he did not indeed think me a match good enough for his daughter: therefore desired I would give up all thoughts of her for the future; adding, that I should never have his consent. I stood like one planet-struck at these words, which I dreaded worse than death, before he had uttered them. At last, says I, recovering from my surprize, shall no conditions plead in my favour, and make you dispose of *Euphigenia*? Not any, replied he, which you can offer; and with that left me to ruminate on my disappointment.

I WENT home to my lodgings, cursing my own imprudence for having spoke to the colonel before I had advised with *Euphigenia*, whose prudence and superior sense might direct me with regard to her father. I was now in danger of losing her for ever. I understood, by the austere air and frown which accompanied the colonel's words, that I should not be welcome to his house; consequently not have an opportunity of acquainting *Euphigenia* with my disaster. It seemed now as if *Hymen* was ready to extinguish his half-kindled torch, and leave me to grope in darkness. What could I do? *Euphigenia* I knew had so much deference to her father's will, that to attempt to persuade her to any thing of consequence without his consent, would be but in vain.

THERE was no carrying on a secret intrigue with *Euphigenia*, by reason of the great crowd of admirers which frequented the colonel's house, who therefore kept a strict eye on her. In this distraction of mind I made bold to write her a letter, which, with a purse of five guineas, my servant delivered to her maid. The letter runs thus:

I AM sorry to tell you, Madam, that my imprudence has carried me so far beyond the bounds of discretion, as to have talked yesterday to your father concerning you,

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without your approbation : But much more so, when I tell you, that he has disapproved of my project, and, in a manner, discharged me his house ; consequently cut off farther communication with you. All I have to hope for now, is the continuance of your correspondence, which, you may assure yourself, will give me infinite pleasure, were it not allayed with the fear I am in of losing your esteem. This fear is not groundless ; for you are mistress of a world of charms, which procure you so many admirers, that I am ready to sink under a load of grief and concern, when I consider how much inferior I am to them in point of fortune, which is the accursed consideration which made the colonel reject me for a son-in-law. Heavens ! what a pity it is, that souls already united by love and friendship, should be put asunder by the sordid and mercenary view of riches, which alone cannot make us happy. But why these reflections, as the colonel is determined, that the richest man, let his other qualities be ever so worthless, shall be *Euphigenia's* husband ? Oh cruel sentence ! Why was I not more wealthy, or less susceptible of love ? In either of these cases I might be still happy ; but since it is otherwise, let me expostulate with you, to pity the sufferings of a lover, who breathes nothing but despair ; and impute the liberty I have assumed of writing to you without your consent, to the excess of my grief, and the strong impulse of my love, which must hurry me soon to my grave, if not seasonably prevented. Your prudence will direct you how to proceed in this affair.

TOWARDS the evening my servant came back with this answer :

S I R,

I AM not at all surpris'd, that my father has disapprov'd of your suit, because he has done the like to several before ; but what he intends by it is more than I can tell. I apprehend, if he goes on in this way, that he shall be obliged, at last, to profer me to some person, who, perhaps, will not be fond of the bargain, as a stale maid is always reckoned more despicable than the most superannuated widow. I do not blame you for putting the question to my father, in as far as you were sure of my affections : However, you ought to have consulted me first ; not that I rely more upon my own judgment than

yours,



yours, but because I am better acquainted with his humour; and would accordingly tender you my advice. But since what is done cannot be recalled, we must be wiser for the time to come, and endeavour to gain ground of the colonel by degrees. Mean time, I advise you not to come to this house till you hear from me. My maid undertakes to be our messenger; therefore trust no other person with your commands. As you regard my peace, which I must own depends much upon your welfare, let not this disappointment disturb your repose; and believe, that my esteem for you is so well rooted, that it is hardly in the power of fate to erase it.

BEFORE I had this assurance of *Euphigenia's* affections, I thought such a declaration would have made me completely happy. But alas! I found it otherwise. I had no sooner this testimony of her regard, than I vehemently longed to see her; which indeed seemed impracticable, as the village was so small, that no intrigue, particularly with the well-known and celebrated *Euphigenia*, could be carried on secretly. However, we continued our correspondence; and *Sophia*, who was *Euphigenia's* maid, acted her part to the life, for which she was handsomely rewarded; for I sincerely believe she drew more money than the general post-office of the town.

ONE day, as she came with a letter to me from her mistress, she asked me, if I had not a strong inclination to see *Euphigenia*. Is that a question to be asked? replied I. Why then, said she, meet me precisely by twelve of the clock this night, at the back-door of our garden; and I shall introduce you to her bed-chamber. I thanked her, in terms full of gratitude; and assured her, that I would never forget her good offices. Having thrown a little of the all-bribing dust in her eyes, I dismissed her, recommending to her to be punctual to the appointed hour.

I now thought myself at the extent of my wish, expecting to be fully blest in *Euphigenia's* company, in the space of a few hours, which seemed to me more tedious than common. At last the wish'd-for minute came, the clock went twelve, and I, in a moment, gained the back door of the garden, where I found my faithful conductrix ready to receive me. I thought, said she, that an ardent lover would have anticipated the time prescribed him; but no matter, there is no time lost; let us walk in, and

see how *Euphigenia* will receive you. When we came to the door of *Euphigenia*'s room, which opened very softly, she took me by the hand, saying, Here's your beloved's apartment ; every thing favours you ; the whole family is overwhelmed in sleep ; and your good fortune depends upon your own address. The god of love assist you. But take special care you do not discover, that I have conducted you hither. Having thus cautioned me, she vanished, leaving me to grope in the dark for *Euphigenia*'s bed. I wish I could conceal the sequel ; but since the story would seem imperfect without it, and perhaps fix the fault on me, in your opinion, I will tell you, in a few words, that having, at last, discovered *Euphigenia*'s bed, I found, to my unspeakable surprize, two, fast asleep in one another's arms ! Heavens ! cried I, is it possible that *Euphigenia* can be thus base ? Surely not. The malicious maid either designed to entrap me, or had mistaken the right door. I stood in the greatest perplexity imaginable, not knowing what to do. I durst not look out for *Sophia*'s room, lest I should stumble into another. I would have awaked the party, was I not afraid of the consequence ; for if this were *Euphigenia*, clasped in the arms of her gallant, he or I behoved to die. On the other hand, should it prove to be some of the domesticks, I should be shamefully detected, and thereby endanger my own honour, and, what I valued much more, *Euphigenia*'s reputation. Thus I perplexed myself to no purpose, till I had thought of an expedient, which, I was sure, would clear up my doubt. I looked out for their respective cloaths, and having taken all the papers I could find in their pockets, I walked out. Before I gained the garden, I met with *Sophia*, who was not a little surprised to see me so soon, and said, that she was afraid I had not been well received. You have taken care I should not, replied I coldly ; for you shewed me into a room where two were lying together. She swore by all that's good and sacred, that she directed me to *Euphigenia*'s room ; and said, that it was but a meer delusion, which the excess of my love, mixed with fear, suggested to my fancy. You have nothing to do, answered I, to be convinced of the truth of what I say, but to step in, and try. Accordingly, *Sophia* went into her mistress's room. When she was coming out, and advancing towards me, I could hear her pronounce these words : O unheard-of wickedness ! Is it possible

possible the fair *Euphigenia* can be so base ! Or shall I rather doubt my own senses ; and believe, that we are all enchanted ! I was too well convinced of *Euphigenia*'s guilt, to wait for a further éclaircissement. I went home therefore, without speaking a word to *Sophia*, who, I was sure, would either endeavour to palliate the crime, or tell the story in its blackest colours ; which, indeed, I could not with patience hear.

WHEN I inspected the papers of the above lovers, I found (Oh horror ! that I must tell it) a letter which I wrote to the colonel some time before, about his bill ; and among those of *Euphigenia*, my own letters, &c. Thus disappointed by her who was reckoned the nonpareil of the age, I vowed never to marry, inferring, from *Euphigenia*'s conduct, that all the sex is deceitful ; and it is in consequence of that vow, that I have proposed *Keeping* to you.

I AM sorry, Sir, replied I, that the baseness of one woman has given you such a bad impression of all our sex : For my own part, had I no other motive to reject your offer, than the satisfaction of convincing you of your error, and persuading you, that we are not all depraved, I would stand proof against all the temptations you are able to lay in my way : Besides, custom has rendered living together, without the sanction of the church, so criminal, that I dare not venture on it without the endearing name of a wife to keep me in countenance. If that is all you aim at, Madam, answered he, I agree to it with all my heart ; and forthwith acknowledge you as such. In short, the bargain was concluded, and we went the next day into the country, where we spent a fortnight, and then returned to town in quality of man and wife.

WE had not lived long together, when I found, that the Justice, either through old age, or some other natural defect, was deficient in what we call family-duty ; which obliged me to look out for a proper coadjutor : The gentleman I had pitched upon, was a young student in the *Temple*, descended from an antient family in *Yorkshire*, but in such low circumstances, that he was glad to embrace the offer.

As Mr. *Scrivener* (for that was my gallant's name) was a stranger in town, he easily passed for my brother ; and, by that means, visited me every day, without being in the least suspected. But we lived so fast at the Justice's charges,



charges, that his worship began, at length, to be very fractious in his temper : So that I had reason now to expect a total revolution in our affairs. However, Mr. *Scrivener*, to whom I always imparted the secrets of our family, was of opinion, that I ought not to retrench my extravagance ; and assured me, that if the Justice should treat me indifferently, or offer to turn me off, he would, in quality of a brother, either prosecute him according to law, or bully him, to let me have a round sum of money.

THIS advice was so much to my liking, that, instead of observing a medium in my expences, I launched out into the greatest extravagancies : So that his worship was ready to hang himself, as the only means to make his riches survive him. In short, we at last broke out into an open rupture. Upon which he ordered me to shift for myself, and give him no further trouble. At these words I burst out into tears, giving vent to all the spleen and malice a woman's heart could suggest. While I was in this disorder, my supposed brother happened to come in, and seeing me all in tears, asked what the matter was. Upon which I told him, that the Justice had commanded me to quit his house. I can hardly believe that, sister, replied *Scrivener* ; for I take the Justice to be a gentleman of too good sense to use his lady after that manner, without great provocation. You don't suppose, Sir, cried the Justice, that she is my wife. Not your wife, answered *Scrivener*, in a well-counterfeited passion. Repeat these words again, and by Heaven you are a dead man. What, not your wife ! Sister, I desire you to clear yourself of this aspersions. If the mutual consent, replied I, of both parties, in the sight of God, and cohabiting together, prove the validity of a marriage, I am his wife. Death and damnation ! cried Mr. *Scrivener*, you are then his whore ! By the sacred soul of your chaste mother, whom you have dishonoured, you shall die ! I will, with pleasure, embrue those hands in your polluted blood, for bringing such an indelible stain upon our family ; nor shall your hoary lecher, pointing to the Justice, escape my wrath. You shall accompany the strumpet to the other world.—Mr. *Scrivener* uttered these words with such a seeming emotion of a great soul incensed with indignation, that the Justice, who had no turn for fighting, was ready to die thro' fear. He therefore, in order to save his bacon, proposed to decide the matter amicably, and

and offered one thousand pounds ; which Mr. *Scrivener* despised : So that his worship thought it consistent with his safety to double the sum ; which I greedily accepted, and bid his worship an eternal adieu.

HERE a new difficulty started up between me and Mr. *Scrivener*, who, as he had been the principal actor in procuring the money, insisted on an equal dividend ; which I did not choose to grant. I was indeed willing to give him two hundred pounds, but he rejected it, as a meer trifle, noways suited to his services ; and, in order to be revenged of me, began to blow me all over the town.

THIS, with some other enormities I committed, by personating some of the ladies of quality, particularly the D——s of *M—t—ue*, in whose character I had often prostituted myself to several persons for large sums, drew upon me the odium of both sexes, and obliged me to resolve upon leaving my native country. Accordingly, having disposed of all my unnecessary furniture, I conveyed myself privately on board the *Susanna* of London, *James Brown* commander, bound for *Rotterdam*, with an intention of going into a convent) the common resource of disgusted ladies) that I might be able afterwards, when my fame was forgot, to make my appearance upon the stage of pleasure, in the character of a foreign lady.

I WAS scarcely twenty-four hours on board, when I perceived that *Brown* was pretty much enamoured with me ; but being a man naturally blunt, of no turn for polite gallantry, and fitter to accost a plier in the streets, than a lady of character and fashion, as he supposed me to be, he was at a loss to declare himself. All he had to recommend him to our sex, was a frame of body, which, though not in the least genteel, promised abilities noways disagreeable to the fair, and which sometimes prevails over the most proper personage, of the genteelest air and sweetest affability. And let me tell you, that before I had been disgusted with the male world, such a man as *Brown*, blunt as he was, would not have turned, at first sight, the edge of my appetite, when in the humour of being regaled. However, his promising appearance had no influence upon me then. And tho' his eyes, which are the true index of the mind, fully discovered his passion, I made no advances to help him out of his stupidity ; neither gave him the least encouragement to declare his love. I could not help laughing to see his confusion,

fusion, when he failed in the fruitless attempts he made to disclose his mind to me. You might hear him cry to himself, Zoons, that I should be thus abashed by a woman whom I have within gun-shot, and whom I could force to a compliance, could I muster resolution enough to attack her : Sometimes he would let fly a whole volley of oaths, blaspheming both heaven and earth ; at another time go upon deck, and vent his unbounded passion upon the poor sailors, tho' ever so much in their duty. His embarras was so agreeable to me, that I muster'd a little more modesty than was natural to me, to keep him at boat-hook's length. But fearing lest his passion, accompanied with the brutality peculiar to these amphibious animals, should carry him too far, and prompt him, at last, to offer me violence, I began to throw off the mask by degrees, and give him to understand, that I was not altogether impregnable.

THIS encouraged him to redouble his attacks, and to declare himself so far, as to give me an opportunity of letting him know, that I was mercenarily inclined ; and that money was the sole allurements of my soul : which he no sooner understood, than he got the use of his tongue in great perfection ; and urged my compliance upon certain terms, with which I feigned to be greatly affronted, and burst out in tears, exclaiming against my cruel stars, which, said I, not content with chasing me from the land of my nativity, debase me now so low as to be solicited to become a prostitute ; which, I hope, however, is not in the power of my adverse fortune to make me. I should be glad, Madam, replied *Brown*, to know why you left your native country, and what you design to pursue abroad. My history, said I, is a subject too melancholly to enter upon a detail of it, and would certainly tire out your patience ; wherefore will content myself with telling you, in a few words, that I am the unfortunate daughter and heiress of a gentleman of considerable estate in *Northumberland*, left in my minority to the care of an inhuman uncle, who, not content with defrauding me of my birth-right, used his utmost endeavour to deprive me of my life, for disputing it with him. Being informed of my uncle's villainous design upon me, I determined to leave the country, and shut myself up in a convent, where I thought my perfidious guardian could have no emissaries. In order therefore to execute this

scheme,



scheme, I embarked on board your ship for *Flanders*. But I find my evil genius still pursues me, and daily rises new difficulties. But why would you triumph over my misfortunes, and ask me what I cannot grant, without hurting my honour, and exposing me to the malice of my own sex, which envies me the competent share of beauty bounteous nature has been pleased to bestow upon me? If you have any regard for me, solicit me no longer, I pray you, to grant you a favour, which, in the end, would inevitably ruin me. You are rich, and handsome beyond expression; and there are, I am persuaded, many who would jump at the bait you offer me: for what cannot money do? It would tempt the pale Vestal to forsake her hallowed fire, deny *Jove*, and turn whore. Therefore offer not to tempt me, whose riches is innocence, whom affluence might perhaps divert from putting into practice the laudable resolution I have taken. You have too much honour, I hope, to take advantage of my weakness, and use me as a common strumpet. Rather consider me as a woman, tho' under the frowns of fortune, deserving more honourable treatment. You mean matrimony, I suppose, Madam, replied he, in a very submissive tone. If this be your drift, it is not in my power to comply with it; for I have the mortification to be joined to a very woman, who justly punishes me with her never-ceasing tongue, for loving nothing about her but her money, of which she had enough to make me happy, could I be reconciled to her temper, which is as crooked as her body. 'Tis true I have a competent fortune, exclusive of hers; and would readily dispense with her money, to be freed of the clog which accompanies it. But alas! this would never untie the Gordian knot of matrimony; for the law cannot divorce a woman for being a scold, and my wife is not in danger of committing the crime which commonly procures a divorce, because whoever shall see her in broad day-light, will never commit a rape upon her at night. Don't imagine, Sir, cried I, that I have matrimony in my view. I have laid all thoughts of that nature aside how soon I found myself divested of my birth-right. And to be plain with you, Sir, I determined from that day to keep myself free from any man, but such who would make me independent even of himself; that is to say, let me have a competency to maintain me in an elegant manner, and live with him as if he had no power

over me. No man of sense, replied he, would condescend to maintain, or even live with a woman, was she ever so engaging, upon these terms. Extravagant as these terms seem to you, answered I, they are not comparable, in my opinion, to the happiness I promise myself in a cloister, which will free me from the vanities and temptations of the world. The happiness you expect to find there, replied he, is altogether imaginary ; for while you live, your beauty will expose you to innumerable inconveniences, which the most retired cell of a convent cannot prevent. Suppose a cloister would screen you from the importunities of our sex, and from all the temptations they are able to lay in your way, your superior beauty will infallibly procure you the malice and envy of the sisterhood, who will join hand in hand to make your life miserable. 'Tis therefore my humble opinion, that you should drop all thoughts of secreting yourself from the world, and accept of an aliment from me, which may (extravagance apart) put you in a state of independency. Having thus spoke, he paused a while, expecting, I suppose, that I would give my assent to his proposal ; but finding, that I did not reply, he believed that I was run a-ground, and that my silence was the forerunner of my condescension. All this while I did nothing but bite my nails, as if I was not able to make a proper return ; but my intention was to make him come closer to the point, and name the conditions upon which he intended to deal with me, that I might state my demands accordingly. At last *Brown* was obliged to resume his discourse, and said, your silence, Madam, promises me success ; and that I, by all appearance, shall have the honour of doing you a service ; therefore name your terms, to which (if within bounds) I will agree, with all my heart. You have me, answered I, in your power, and may treat me at discretion ; so it would be to no purpose to resist you longer : But I hope you'll consider my situation, and the rank my father's daughter, tho' under misfortunes, ought to have in the world. Mean time I must tell you, that it is not consistent with my safety to return to *England*, considering the dangers to which I should be exposed from my inhuman uncle : Besides, your having a wife would render our lives insupportable, and lay us open to the censure of the public. 'Tis my advice therefore, that you settle me in the port you frequent most in *Holland*, which would

answer

answer your purpose full as well as my living in *London*, where your wife and my friends would soon find me out.

Your opinion, Madam, said he, is very reasonable ; and I am resolved to adhere to it to a tittle. He then called for pen, ink, and paper, and gave me an accepted bill of five hundred pounds, payable to me, or order, upon our landing at *Rotterdam*, which he said I was to lay out in furniture, as it should seem proper to me.

HE now took the liberty to kiss me for the first time, as it were to seal what we had agreed upon. He had scarcely done bussing, when a shot was heard to windward from one of his majesty's ships, Captain *Buffwell* commander. Upon which *Brown* went upon deck, and gave the necessary orders to bring to, tho' I believe much against his will, for fear of being obstructed in his amours. And, indeed, his fears were not groundless, as you shall soon hear. However, he brought to, under the man of war's stern ; and was ordered by Captain *Buffwell* to launch his boat, and come aboard of him. Before he left his own ship, he desired me to keep below, because, said he, these men of war chaps are damnably insolent, and would not hesitate a moment, should they observe you upon deck, to come aboard, and be rude to you. Here I thought I had a proper opportunity of leaving *Brown* on a pretty good footing, having the draught in my custody. I considered with myself, that if I was to go along with him to *Rotterdam*, he would oblige me to lay out the five hundred pounds in furnishing the lodgings he was to take for me ; whereas could I fall upon a way to be carried aboard his majesty's ship, which was perhaps bound for some other port, I might, with safety, indorse *Brown's* bill to some of his acquaintances in *Holland*, for a trifle of a discount. While I was thus meditating to dupe my bountiful friend *Brown*, the long-boat came along-side, to carry my ladyship aboard the man of war. After I had dressed myself to advantage, I put on board the king's ship, where I was received with as much civility and good manners as could be expected from a tar, by the captain. This gentleman had few or none of the defects Mr. *Brown* laboured under ; for, instead of being fullen, close, and morose, he was chearful, gay, and talkative ; so that I was admirably well diverted by him, while poor *Brown* walked disconsolate upon the main-deck. It was by this time late, and tea was got



ready : While we were regaling ourselves, *Buffwell* asked what entertainment we had aboard our ship. I answered, indifferent. But are not you afraid to venture on board of such a rotten vessel as your ship is? I remember two years ago, I sent some hands aboard to pump, but she gave them enough to do to keep her above water. This you may be sure was a lucky hit for me, who was all along meditating a plausible pretence to continue on board of his Majesty's ship : So pretending to be in the greatest consternation imaginable, asked Captain *Buffwell* where he was bound for. For *Helvoetsluys*, answered he ; whether I would be glad to have the pleasure of carrying your ladyship, that your life may not be endangered any longer on board of that damn'd hulk. I thanked him very kindly, and told him, that I would willingly stay on board, could he prevail upon *Brown* to let me have my trunk, in which the most part of my cloaths was, without which I could not leave him. Trouble not yourself, madam, said he, with that ; I'll oblige him to it. Having thus spoke, he rung the bell ; which no sooner chimed than a cabin-boy entered, whom the Captain commanded to call *Brown* ; who entered directly, in his ordinary stiff manner. Well, Mr. *Brown*, said the Captain, is it the old crazy *Susannah* you are still master of? Yes, replied he. By the Lord, said *Buffwell*, I wonder how any man of common-sense would venture to sail across the *Thames* in her ; for two years ago she appeared to be unfit for service, to my knowledge. Upon this I counterfeited a trembling fit, that *Brown* might not suspect that the affair had been concerted between *Buffwell* and me. I acted my part so well, that both the gentlemen were equally deceived : And as pretended fits are worse to remove than real ones, they had enough to do to bring me to myself. At last, when I thought that my fit was of a competent duration, I began to give signs of life, by yawning and stretching my arms. My first words were, Lord have mercy upon my soul, for we are sinking. This pious ejaculation persuaded *Brown*, that my fit was the effect of a strong apprehension of being drowned, should I go on board his ship. However, he asked me to go aboard. By no means, replied *Buffwell*, before I had time to answer ; she shall stay where she is. That's very well, Sir, said *Brown* ; but I am charged by her friends to carry her safe to *Rotterdam*. Her friends, I am convinced, did not  
know

know that your vessel was so leaky, else they would never have risked the life of such a fine lady aboard of her. Besides, 'tis matter of indifference whether she lands at *Helvoetsluys*, or *Rotterdam*, as there are passage-boats going daily from the one place to the other. Here I interrupted the captain, and addressed myself to *Brown*, begging, for God's sake, not to trust himself any more in the *Susannah*. Trust myself, replied *Brown*, in great wrath; why I tell you, Madam, she is as tight as any ship in *England*. But observing me turning pale, which he imputed to my fear, he changed his tone, and told me, that since he found I was prepossessed with the insufficiency of his ship, he would not insist upon my going aboard of her, hoping that you, Sir (directing his discourse to captain *Buffwell*) will take particular care of the young lady, and see her safely lodged in *Herman Vander Dessen's* house in *Helvoetsluys*, where I shall make it my business to wait of her as soon as possible, in order to escort her to *Rotterdam*, that her friends may not accuse me of a breach of trust. You may assure yourself, said the captain, that she shall have the best birth aboard, and be used with the greatest civility. Mean time it is proper you let her have her trunk, in case of accidents.

MR. *Brown* was now ready to put aboard his own ship, but seemed inclinable to exchange a few words with me in private, before we should part. I therefore took occasion to call him aside, to testify to him, that I was exceedingly sorry to part with him, tho' my timorous disposition deprived me of his good company. However, I enjoined him, in the strongest terms, to come and meet me at *Helvoetsluys*; for that I should be in the greatest dread and agony till I should see him. These words were uttered with such an emphasis and concern, that he put off seemingly content, though, I believe, not without his fears, that the man of war's chaps would offer to be rude, when, God knows, few were more brutally disposed than himself, had I not fallen upon a proper expedient to bring him to reason. Be that as it will, he sent my trunk, which was all I wanted, from on board his own ship.

BEING thus delivered from my sea-cull, I set all my invention a-going, in order to forge a plausible story to impose upon Captain *Buffwell*, who, to do him justice, was a man of genteel address, and very amorous; but his  
passion

passion was not so predominant as to make him commit such a fault as *Brown* had been guilty of, in letting me have his note before he made sure of my person. *Buffwell*, 'tis true, loved a wench, as he said himself, well enough for pastime, but never lost an hour of his rest for a fine face ; and if I have not been misinformed, he was fashionable enough to like a b—y full as well as a fine lady. However, I found by his conversation, that he was not altogether insensible to the charms of beauty. His eyes soon gave me to understand, that he had a mind to offer me his service. In the mean supper was served up, which indeed was more sumptuous than elegant, but as a description of it would be foreign to my undertaking, I'll pass over it in silence, and come to the purpose. After supper the bottle went about at a good rate, in order to enliven the conversation, which the captain artfully turned upon amours, and which I as artfully declined, as a passion to which I said I was an intire stranger. But the more innocent I seemed, the more he insisted upon that topic, whether with a design of pumping me, or putting me in the humour in which he wished to see me, I cannot say. However, I was still upon my guard, and personated the Innocent so well, that I passed for a pure virgin in the captain's opinion. My youthful appearance, it must be owned, contributed not a little to confirm him in this opinion ; for my face so belied my age, that any person would have taken me to be, at least, five years younger than I really was. The captain, finding me averse to amours, and surprised that a young lady of my youth and beauty should venture abroad without a proper guardian, begged of me to tell him who I was, and what I intended to do in *Holland*. My history, said I, would be a work of time ; I shall therefore only trouble you at present with the reason which obliged me to leave my native country.

I WAS scarcely fifteen years of age, when I had the misfortune to lose the best of mothers, who trained me up in the strictest virtue, without indulging me in the follies to which youth is commonly prone. She made it her business to represent vice to me as a monster which would infallibly ruin its votaries ; and modesty, next to the fear and love of God, as a virtue the most essential to our sex. She also taught me, that disobedience to parents was the source of all the misfortunes which attend youth.

HAP-



HAPPY are those whose parents live to see them settled in the world to their liking. But Heaven has denied me this comfort, as I said before, by depriving me in my non-age of a most virtuous mother. Pardon me, Sir, those few tears I must pay to her pious memory. I was left to the care of my father, then a colonel in the army, who, I must confess, had been very diligent in educating me in a handsome manner, till he had the misfortune to love and marry a woman, much his inferior in every respect, who, instead of being the solace and comfort of his life, turn'd out his greatest curse and torment; so that he did not survive my mother above sixteen months.

MY father having died without a will, I was left to be provided for at the discretion of a cruel step-mother, from whom I could not expect great civility, now that the colonel was dead, considering how she used me in his lifetime. My father was scarcely laid in his grave, when a young nobleman (whose name I'll conceal for the esteem I have for his sister, an amiable young lady, and my intimate acquaintance) catch'd, as he said, with my beauty, and observing the disorder of our family, made love to me in the strongest terms. As I thought his design was honourable, I encouraged and received his addresses, as became a young lady, without transgressing the bounds of modesty. However, I had penetration enough to discover at last, that his design was to lead me astray. My mother (her soul praise God) fortified me against attempts of this nature. But, alas! she was succeeded by one, who, instead of acting the part of a mother, used all her rhetoric to corrupt my morals, and was within an ace of bringing me to an eternal shame and dishonour. For my Lord, despairing of gaining ground of me upon any terms but matrimony, had recourse to bribes and artifice. Taking advantage, therefore, of the misunderstanding which subsisted between me and my stepmother, he applied to the latter as a proper instrument to accomplish his wicked designs. This inhuman woman, instead of protecting my innocence, as she ought to have done, admitted him (I tremble with horror to think on't) in the dead of the night, into my bedchamber. But, good God! imagine my condition, when, by the glimmering light, which a small fire I happened to have in my room gave, I observed him coming in, and knew him to be my lord. His presence, I must confess, should not have been disagreeable

agreeable to me, had he honoured me with it in the day-time. But when I considered that I was defenceless, and wrapt up in night, and in the power of a person who had a dishonourable design upon me, I was like to run distracted. To cry out, would have been to no purpose, since there was nobody within doors but a couple of maids, who were creatures of my stepmother, and who, I had good reason to believe, were privy to his lordship's coming in ; and consequently would have been deaf to all my cries. Mean time, my Lord (I should call him monster) approached my bedside, with an intent, I suppose, to ravish me of—— Here I stopt, pretending to be ashamed of what I was going to say : Which *Buffwell* observing, said, Go on, Madam, to let me hear the whole scene, that I may punish the rashness of your injurer, if ever I shall have the good-fortune to know him : By heavens, nothing but your sacred person could screen him from my just indignation. This generous declaration convinced me, that the Captain was moved with my story, so proceeded—— But, Sir, before he had gained my bed, I had wrapt myself in a morning-gown, and stept towards a window, which, as fortune would have it, had been by chance left open. Upon which, his lordship, fearing lest I should throw myself out of it, took hold of me by the waste, and endeavoured to force me to my bed again ; which I resisted with all my might, crying out *Murder* as loud as I could. My Lord being a man of resolution, and one, I sincerely believe, who would not see me wronged upon any other account, would by no means let me go, lest I should be tempted, thro' the excess of my indignation, to take the window as the nearest way to the street. Whilst we were thus struggling together, one *James Trustwell*, an old servant of my father's, by chance passing by, and hearing my screamings, rushed into my room (for my Lord forgot to shut the door when he came in), and seeing me entangled in a ruffian's arms, knock'd down his lordship, who would have crushed me to atoms by his weight, had not *James* caught me in the very fall. Being thus miraculously delivered, my next care was how to pass the remainder of the night : for I was fully determined never to sleep under the same roof with my cruel stepmother. To continue in my bedchamber till daylight, might prove of bad consequence to me, as well as to my deliverer, as my Lord shewed no symptoms of life ;

life ; and to go at that unseasonable hour to any other place, might give occasion to call my honour and reputation in question. In this dilemma, it was necessary to consult *James*, who did not seem in the least concerned for what he had done, till I gave him to understand that it was my Lord — he had knocked down. He at first appeared somewhat discomposed ; but, recovering himself, he said, that he was not at all for what he had done, in as far as he had killed him in the character of a ruffian in my defence ; however, said he, 'tis proper to remove the corps, that it may not offend your chaste eyes. But how to effect this was a task almost insuperable, without exposing ourselves to imminent danger. 'Tis true, *James* could have thrown him out into the street ; but then the body would have been found next morning under my window, from whence the malicious world would conclude, that I had admitted his lordship into my bedchamber, and, being surpris'd, leapt out of the window, and killed himself in the fall. On the other hand, should the corps be dragged to some obscure corner, *James* might have been detected in the very fact, and consequently hanged for murder. While we were thus debating how to dispose of the body, his lordship, to my no small satisfaction, notwithstanding the indignity offered me, discovered some signs of life ; and recovering the use of his tongue, and, in some measure his reason, address'd me as follows : Injured innocence, my remote for the affront offered your sacred person, torments me more than the contusion on my head. Happy had it been for me, had that well timed blow sent me in an instant to eternity, that I might hide my confusion in the grave, and avoid the gnawing pangs of the conscience, which must continually prey upon me. Would you, dear Miss, but name the conditions upon which you would deign to forgive me, I should be the happiest of all delinquents, and the readiest to comply with them, were it put to an end to my wretched life. But as the present perturbation of your soul cannot permit you to make any return at this time to my request, I beg it, as a singular favour, that you would order your deliverer, whoever he be, to escort me to my own lodgings. I'll not only forgive him, but also reward him for the singular service he has done you, if he is a person that will accept a reward. But if he is a person, whose degree in the world forbids me to receive



favours of that nature, I henceforth swear the strictest friendship with him. Before I go, suffer me, dear Miss, to tell you, that your barbarous stepmother, not only favoured, but prompted, my rash and wicked attempt. Having thus spoke, his lordship paused, expecting that I would make some reply ; but finding that my choler and indignation were so great, that I could not express one single word, stretched his hand to *James*, saying, Here, my friend, help me to rid this lady of my disagreeable company, in hopes that you will be instrumental to bring us together again, and procure me her friendship and forgiveness, without which I must be for ever miserable. He had no sooner uttered these words, than *James* took hold of him by the arm, and conducted him to his lodgings, where having promised to wait of him next morning, he came back to me, in order to know my intentions, which indeed were to quit my stepmother's house without loss of time, and pass the remainder of the night in *James's*, which was right over-against us : Thither *James* carried all my cloaths and jewels without the least opposition ; for my stepmother, having over-heard the beginning of the fray, and conscious of what she had done, kept herself very close, for fear of being suspected of conniving with his lordship. *Trustwell*, after I had rested three or four hours in his house, came to me to ask my commands for my Lord. All I desire you to tell him from me is, that he and my step-mother are the only two in the world I hate and despise most ; and that, in order to shun them both as I would a hydra, I design to set out for *Flanders* this week, to retire from the world in some friendly convent, where such as they can have no access. *Trustwell*, upon hearing my resolution, declined going to wait of my Lord ; but went, at my request, to look out for a ship bound for *Holland* or *Flanders*, which he had the good-fortune to find ready to weigh anchor when the wind should prove fair ; and, agreeing with the master for my freight, returned and acquainted me of his success, telling me that I had no time to lose. I made all the dispatch I could, and went on board that afternoon, accompanied by *Trustwell*, who recommended me in the strongest manner to Mr. *Brown*, and then took leave of me with tears in his eyes.—This, Sir, is a part of my history, and the reasons which moved me to leave *England* ; but before I conclude, I beg leave to tell you, that my Lord's  
sister,

After, who is one of the finest young ladies I ever saw, talked to me frequently concerning one Captain *Buffwell*, whom she had seen one evening in the *Mall*; and by the description she gave of him, you, Sir, seem to be the happy man.

YOUR story, Madam, replied *Buffwell*, is very moving; but you are, in my opinion, to blame, for having so rashly resolved to seclude yourself from the world: Before you had put this resolution into practice, you ought to have sounded his lordship's intentions; for who can tell but that he, after having had such a strong proof of your virtue, would make honourable proposals to you? For my part, though I have no connection with him, I dare be bound that he will do you all the justice imaginable, provided you will return with me to *England*; I will take care that he shall know nothing about you, till I learn how he is disposed.

I AM obliged to you, Sir, answered I; but I am determined not to countenance his lordship any more; his attempt upon my honour has put it intirely out of my power to love him. That attempt, replied he, might have been owing to the excess of his love, tho' the inequality of your fortunes, and perhaps the remonstrance of friends, hindered him from making you honourable proposals. However, since you decline to return home, let me intreat you to refrain from going into a convent three or four months; before the expiration of which you may possibly be of another way of thinking.

It was now pretty late, and all hands went to sleep. I had no sooner lain down, than I began to think whether or no I should continue to impose upon the captain, who was a man of good principles in the main. But, reasoned I with myself, what have I to do with either good or bad principles; money is my chief end: Though the captain is complaisant, and ready to do me a kindness, it is perhaps with a fraudulent design. Besides, my case was altogether fictitious, consequently had no real service for him. All I wanted was the ready, of which his honour could not be wholly destitute.

I ROSE next morning in good health, for the sea agreed with me very well, and going into the great cabin, I found breakfast ready upon the table. The captain, after breakfast, resumed the thread of his last night's discourse, and said, I hope, Madam, you have considered aright of  
what

what I have proposed, with regard to my lord. I have considered of it, Sir, replied I, but I find it impracticable to live out of a convent; for my circumstances are such, that I cannot subsist a fortnight out of some charitable place, without incroaching upon my cloaths and jewels. That objection I'll soon remove, Madam, said he, by letting you have a competency to maintain you in either *Holland* or *Flanders*, till I shall learn how his lordship stands affected, if you'll be pleased to let me know his name, and where he lives. I told him I would, and give him a letter to my lord's sister before we should part. But whether his generosity was the result of a compassionate soul, moved by the melancholly story I recited to him, or the hopes he might have conceived that I, in case of a reconciliation, should procure him a footing with my lord's supposed sister, I will not pretend to determine. Be this as it will, he treated me very civilly.

HAVING landed at *Helvoetsluys*, the captain and I went ashore, where I lodged over night. My landlady, who spoke very good *English*, entertained me very agreeably, and made me acquainted with a *Dutch* gentleman lately come from *Rotterdam*, to transact some business at *Helvoetsluys*. I asked him if he had been acquainted with Mr. *Brown*, of the *Susannah*. He answered in the affirmative, and that he dealt very largely with him. But pray, Madam, said he, have you any connection with Mr. *Brown*? Yes, Sir, answered I, I set out on board the *Susannah*; but being timorous, Mr. *Brown* advised me to go aboard the man of war, which lies off here. When I left *England*, I had draughts upon merchants in *Rotterdam*, particularly upon Mr. *Herman van Hoven*, factor for the *English* there; and as Mr. *Brown* is better acquainted with the nature of exchange than me, I let him have these draughts for his note of hand, payable upon our arrival at the aforesaid port. If you know any person here that would advance me money upon this note, I would be highly obliged to you, being very much pinch'd for want of cash. Pray, Madam, said he, let me see the note. After he had perused it, and knew it to be *Brown's* handwriting, he paid me the contents, saying, that he was glad to have an opportunity of obliging Mr. *Brown*. I thanked him in terms that expressed my acknowledgment of the singular favour he had done me; and told him, that I would signify to Mr. *Brown*, how ready he was to accept



accept his note. Being thus mistress of five hundred pounds, I went to bed very contentedly. Before I rose next morning my *Dutchman* was gone, to my no small satisfaction ; for had he staid till *Busswell*, who slept aboard his ship, came ashore, he might perhaps have hinted, that he had paid me such a large sum, and thereby deprive me of the captain's intended bounty. About nine of the clock he came, and told me, that he had agreed with a boat to carry me to *Williamstadt*, where it was agreed I should stay privately for a few days, till he had provided a proper place for me. Before we parted, he gave me two hundred pounds, and promised to be with me next morning. I had no sooner landed at *Williamstadt*, than I hired a post-chaise, and set out for *Breda*, and from thence to *Ghent*, where I became a member of a convent, leaving *Busswell*, *Brown*, and *Vanhoven*, to make fruitless inquiries about me, and refund themselves the best way they could.

END of NUMBER I.



ДЛЯ ПУТИ



